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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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INSIDE

Bridge Problem

Study says two of every three of the busiest problem bridges in the nation lack maintenance.

NATION...Page 26

Olympics Calendar

An astronomical calculator, considered a technological marvel of antiquity, was also used to track dates of the ancient Olympic games.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY... Page 30

Waki turns down CPA board nomination. **PAGE 3**

DPL terminates lease for planned Win DnC hotel. **PAGE 6**

Engine repairs, mechanical problem trigger more outages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ongoing repairs on one power engine and a mechanical problem on another at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base triggered more outages on Saipan Wednesday and Thursday, on top of the regular 14-hour rotating outages.

"To no surprise, it's the condition of the engines. [The blackouts] were almost islandwide because two engines went down," Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna told the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

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Way cleared for Aggreko contract

"We desperately need back-up power, and Aggreko is the quickest solution we have right now."
— Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS

- House asks fed's help to solve power woes. **PAGE 4**
- CUC's August fuel rates still at all-time high. **PAGE 5**
- Proposals out for repair of 2 power engines. **PAGE 5**

The Senate and the House of Representatives held back-to-back sessions yesterday to remove what may be the last remaining legal obstacle to the temporary power deal inked by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with the U.K.-based Aggreko International.

The Senate voted unanimously to pass a bill exempting emer-

See WAY on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider gestures as he delivers his remarks during a session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

Senate OKs $5M debt cap for CUC

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Manglona

The Senate yesterday approved an executive order raising the debt ceiling for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from $500,000 to $5 million.

In a resolution adopted unanimous-

See SENATE on Page 4

Shell prices drop

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Shell announced Thursday its gas stations are poised to lower prices today as market observers worldwide are marking a drop in the cost of oil after it hit record highs earlier this month.

In a statement, president of Shell Marianas Eloy Lizama said the local gas price drop is due to the reduced cost of the company's supply.

See SHELL on Page 4

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Local

Finding a doctor for Tinian poses challenges

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The search for a new Tinian doctor could take six months to a year, according to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez Thursday.

Villagomez met with several Tinian officials Wednesday to discuss the search for a new doctor after Dr. Ronaldo Toldeo unexpectedly resigned last week from the Tinian Health Center, Tinian's only source of medical care.

Alex Gorman, DPH legal counsel, said the Tinian Health Center is only required to have a medical doctor present 30 percent of the time. A nurse practitioner and physician's assistant are currently working at the facility.

"I want to be optimistic and hopefully within a matter of two to three months [there will be a replacement], but we need to also be realistic and recognize that it could be six months to a year," Villagomez said.

There are extra obstacles in finding a doctor for Tinian, he said.

"You know it's very difficult to hire a physician for a community like Tinian because of its remoteness," he said.

Even hiring for a place like Saipan can be difficult, Villagomez said.

"We have a hard time here and we have the population; can you imagine in a lesser populated area?" he said. "It's just more of a challenge."

Most physicians are used to working and discussing cases with other doctors, something that is not as easy on Tinian, Villagomez added.

"They have to actually pick up the phone and call here," he said. "Most [doctors] do not work independently by themselves and for Tinian you need to be able to do that."

The Commonwealth Health Center is using several approaches to deal with and combat the problem, Villagomez said.

Immediately, CHC is keep-

See FINDING on Page 4

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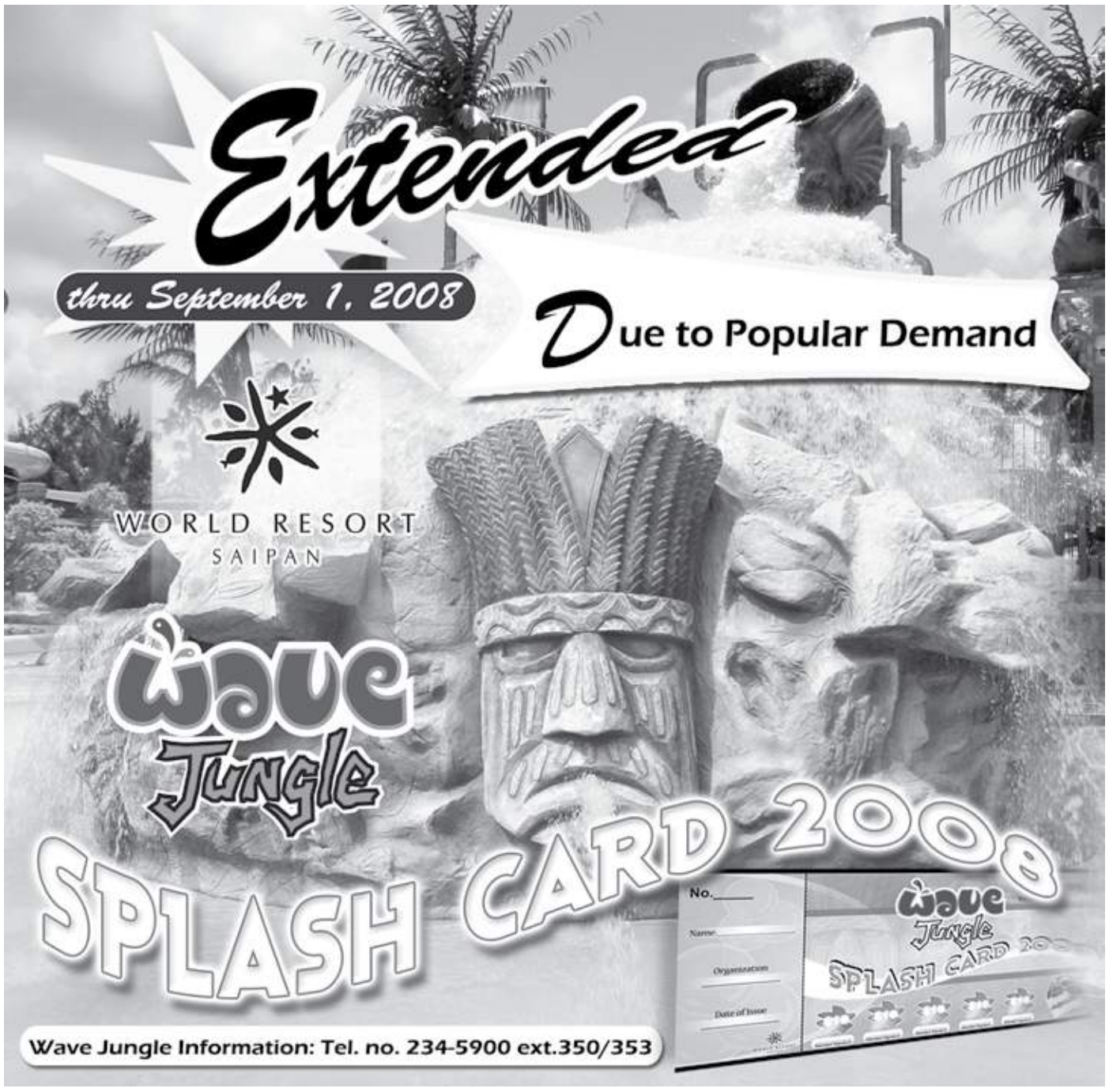

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/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

Waki turns down CPA board nomination

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Citing professional obligations at his new job, former congressman Absalon Waki Jr. on Thursday declined Gov. Benigno Fitial's nomination to the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Waki's decision to turn down the nomination, offered earlier this month, comes after Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) in a letter last week criticized the governor's selection of him for the board, pointing to potential conflicts of interest given Waki's position as advertising sales manager of the *Saipan Tribune*, a subsidiary of the Tan Holdings Corp., which also owns Pacific Orient Inc., a company that has service contracts at the local airport. For the same reasons, Torres in the letter faulted the nomination of Frank B. Camacho, manager of POI before cursing at the governor in Chamorro.

Waki Jr.

However, Waki said his decision is unrelated to Torres' letter, saying his new job at the newspaper requires his full attention.

"It's about priorities," Waki said. "My first priority right now has to be this job and my obligations here."

In his letter to the governor, Waki—once a Covenant Party congressman for precinct 3—said much the same, thanking him for the nomination but declining it because of his new advertising position.

"I have just recently started working for the *Saipan Tribune* as its advertising sales manager and believe that I must first give this company my full attention and undivided effort," he said.

Reacting to the news, the governor's spokesman, Charles Reyes, said the administration must plan a new nomination but stopped short of suggesting who that could be.

"We completely understand Waki's decision." Reyes said. "He wants to focus on his career now and we accept that. We'll just have to make another nomination. At this point, we're also waiting on the Senate to make a decision on the other nominees."

Torres welcomed Waki's move.

"It's a good thing he declined because I don't think they would have confirmed him in the Senate," he said.

The Fitial administration dissolved the CPA board this year after the agency nearly defaulted on a $20 million airport revenue bond. In an executive order, the governor later seized control of CPA and the airport, declaring a "state of emergency" that has since remained in place.

The Senate last week voted unanimously to confirm former Tinian senator Manuel Villagomez as a board appointee. Villagomez joins former CPA chairman Joe Lifoifoi, who was asked to rescind his May 16 resignation and stay on the board. The remaining nominees yet to be confirmed are Camacho, Miriam Seman, and Barry Toves.

Cause of MGM blaze remains unknown

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Arson investigators have failed to establish the cause of the fire that engulfed the MGM garment factory in Chalan Piao on July 9.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that the Fire Prevention Section's findings indicate that the fire had originated in the sewing section.

Ogumoro said the investigators, however, placed the incident under further investigation as the cause of the fire is still undetermined.

Ogumoro said scene investigation revealed that the fire had originated within the sewing department/section of the MGM factory.

Due to heat transfer, the dormitory on the east side was also burned and sustained total loss.

In addition, four 40-footer containers were burned as a result of heat transfer.

Arson investigators determined that the fire began within the sewing section "as evidenced from the heavy charring, bended steel poles and beams and spalling of concrete floorings within the immediate vicinity" in that section.

"These are indications of extensive heat damage," said Ogumoro, quoting the arson investigators' report.

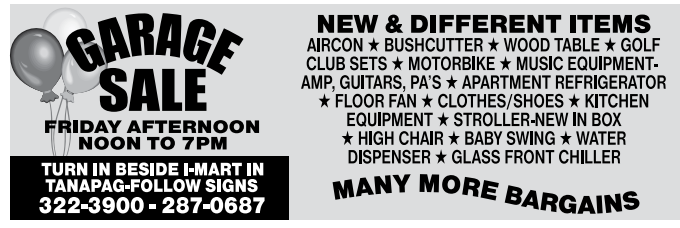
DPS received the report about the fire on July at 4:52am. Fire engines responded to the scene. The fire was brought under control at 3:37pm that day—or about 10 hours later.

No one was reported injured.

Ogumoro said that on the same day at 7:30am, Fire Prevention Section investigators were summoned to the scene.

Upon their arrival, the investigators observed that the factory building located behind a four-story dormitory building had collapsed and was totally damaged.

The fire resulted in the evacuation of over 200 factory workers.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WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Vendors on Saipan and Tinian for the purpose of providing WIC-approved food items to WIC participants. All interested vendors may pick up an application at the WIC main office located at Upper Navy Hill, building number N-25, starting July 28, 2008 through August 16, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.). Alternatively, applications may also be downloaded online by visiting the CNMI WIC website at **www.cnmiwic.org**.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:30 p.m., August 16, 2008.

The Vendor selection criteria are attached to the applications and can also be viewed online at **www.cnmiwic.org**. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa, at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org, or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director

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SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2008
REMAINS AT 41.3 CENTS PER KILOWATT-HOUR

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED)	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh) ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)	ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)	TOTAL RATES PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL	$ 5.60			
1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)		$ 0.016	$ 0.413	$ 0.429
2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)		0.066	0.413	0.479
3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)		0.086	0.413	0.499
4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)		0.127	0.413	0.540
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	$ 7.67	$ 0.086	$ 0.413	$ 0.499
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	$ 7.67	$ 0.091	$ 0.413	$ 0.504
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	$ 56.00	$ 0.222	$ 0.413	$ 0.635

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

JANUARY 2007	$ 0.196	NOVEMBER 2007 (RES. ONLY, 11/2 - 30/07)	$ 0.258
FEBRUARY 2007	$ 0.188	NOVEMBER 2007 (ALL OTHERS)	$ 0.258
MARCH 2007	$ 0.188	DECEMBER 2007	$ 0.258
APRIL 2007	$ 0.191	JANUARY 2008	$ 0.258
MAY 2007	$ 0.222	FEBRUARY 2008	$ 0.253
JUNE 2007	$ 0.221	MARCH 2008 (RES. ONLY)	$ 0.176
JULY 2007	$ 0.223	MARCH 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	$ 0.288
AUGUST 2007	$ 0.223	APRIL 2008 (RES. ONLY)	$ 0.176
SEPTEMBER 2007	$ 0.228	APRIL 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	$ 0.327
OCTOBER 2007 (RES. ONLY, 10/1 - 3/07)	$ 0.228	MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/1 - 2/08)	$ 0.176
OCTOBER 2007 (RES. ONLY, 10/4 - 31/07)	$ 0.176	MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08)	$ 0.357
OCTOBER 2007 (ALL OTHERS)	$ 0.228	MAY 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	$ 0.357
NOVEMBER 2007 (RES. ONLY, 11/1/07)	$ 0.176	JUNE 2008	$ 0.387
		JULY 2008	$ 0.413

House asks feds' help to solve power woes

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday adopted a resolution formally asking the federal government to help solve the Commonwealth's power crisis.

The resolution requests the U.S. Department of the Interior in consolidating and directing federal grants for the CNMI to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to the purpose of repairing the power plants. The document also asks the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to oversee the overhaul efforts.

The resolution, however, does not indicate how much federal capital improvement funds the lawmakers hope to funnel into CUC.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes, along with several other lawmakers, will bring the resolution when they travel to Washington, D.C. next week to meet with Interior Department and other federal officials. The CNMI's power problem is one of the main items on the agenda.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, the chief sponsor of the resolution, said that rehabilitating the power plants would require significant funding. He added that the previous practice of funding CUC's repair efforts little by little has proven futile. "We cannot continue with the piecemeal approach," he said.

He added that the Army Corps of Engineers should be enlisted to supervise any future efforts to fix the power plants, given the past management and operational problems at CUC.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Public Auditor are now investigating a sole-source contract CUC inked with the Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. CISCO was hired to fix six engines at Saipan's Power Plant II, but failed to get the job done.

US CITIZEN CHILDREN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, Coalition of United Workers president Irene Tantiado, Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio, and U.S. citizen children with their parents gather for a photo after a meeting at the Kilili Beach pavilion late Wednesday afternoon. Doromal has urged alien workers to speak out for their political rights and that of their children.

FINDING

From Page 2

ing constant communication open between the Tinian facility to discuss cases or answer any questions the nurse practitioner or physician's assistant might have.

"They need to have access 24/7 to an emergency room to talk to a physician," Villagomez said.

A physician from Saipan is regularly sent to Tinian to review charts, countersign prescriptions and perform other tasks, he said.

H. Christina Brown, a family practice doctor from Saipan and former physician at Island Medical Center, traveled to Tinian last weekend to provide care.

The long-term goal, Villagomez said, is to find a permanent replacement.

SHELL

From Page 1

"Shell will lower the price on Shell premium and Shell unleaded gasoline and Shell diesel effective at the close of business tonight [July 31]," he said. "Since our last price movement, the market cost of Shell's supply has reduced and we will pass these savings on to our customers."

Gas prices in the CNMI, still the highest in the nation, have fluctuated significantly in recent months. Last week, Mobil stations lowered prices and Shell stations later followed.

The price at Shell stations for unleaded gasoline, according to Shell's statement, will drop by 10 cents per gallon to $4.87 and by 8 cents per gallon for premium gas to $5.02. Diesel prices will decrease by 10 cents per gallon to $5.79.

Shell's price drop comes as the global price of oil has fallen below the record $147 per barrel seen July 11. Crude oil prices rose to $4.58 to land at $126.77 yesterday according to the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Meanwhile, the average price of gas nationwide has also seen a slight drop according to statistics from AAA. The current average now stands at $3.90 per gallon for regular gasoline, $4.20 for premium and $4.69 for diesel, roughly one cent lower for each type beneath the average earlier in the week. However, these prices are still much higher than the price on the same day one year ago. The national average price per gallon for regular gas then, for example, was $2.86.

SENATE

From Page 1

ly, the senators said the Constitution and the Public Utilities Commission already provide enough controls on CUC borrowing. They added that requiring legislative approval for borrowing sums less than $5 million "seems like an unnecessary additional burden that would hinder the CUC from promptly responding to a power crisis."

Sen. Paul A. Manglona, one of the cosponsors of the resolution, said the Senate agreed to increasing the debt cap because Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave his word that the planned $5-million loan will include the recently earmarked funds to CUC.

Some lawmakers have questioned CUC's need to borrow money. They have argued that the Legislature already earmarked $3.4 million of future earnings of the Marianas Public Land Trust to fund CUC's urgent needs. The earmark was designed to provide CUC money to make an initial payment of $1.5 million for rental generators, and to settle outstanding obligations with contractors Telesource CNMI and Pacific Marine Industrial Corp.

In a letter to the Senate yesterday, Fitial explained that the obligations funded by the earmark require immediate cash outlay. Since CUC currently does not have liquidity, some temporary borrowing will need to be done.

He also said that CUC needs the additional borrowing authority of $1.6 million—$5 million less $3.4 million—to augment currently available funding to fix two engines at Saipan's main power plant.

Fitial further noted that the new debt ceiling sets the maximum aggregate amount of new and outstanding debt that CUC may carry on its books at any given time. "Any new or additional debt to be incurred by CUC over the new ceiling will have to be approved by the Legislature," he said.

The governor issued the executive order raising CUC's debt ceiling on Wednesday, July 30, 2008. Under the Constitution, the Senate and the House of Representatives have 60 days to amend or modify an executive order. If no action is taken within 60 days, the executive order becomes a law.

The House of Representatives has discussed the executive order on the floor, but it has not reached an agreement on whether to approve or reject it. The executive order has been referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for further study.

The Fitial administration is currently considering a loan from Independence Bank, a Rhode Island-based bank that offers federal government-backed loan programs.

WAY

From Page 1

gency power contracts from review by the Public Utilities Commission. The bill was immediately sent to the House of Representatives, which voted 9-6 to approve it.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to sign the bill into law today.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. hailed the quick passage of the bill as show of "bipartisan cooperation between the administration and the Legislature to address CUC's very critical problems."

"We desperately need back-up power, and Aggreko is the quickest solution we have right now," he added.

CUC has hired the U.K.-based Aggreko International to provide up to 15 MW of temporary power to Saipan. The island is currently suffering constant blackouts due to the poor condition of its power plant. Under the $6-million contract, CUC must make an initial payment of $1.5 million before Aggreko ships the rental generators. Law has now been passed to provide for the required down payment.

Senators Maria Frica T. Pangelinan and Paul A. Manglona sponsored the bill. Senators Jude Hofschneider and Paterno Hocog were absent.

In the House, the members who opposed the bill are Reps. Joseph James Camacho, Heinz Hofschneider, Tina Sablan, Edward Salas, Ralph Anthony Torres, and Stanley Torres. Reps. David Apatang, Francisco Dela Cruz, Raymond Palacios, and Ray Yumul were absent.

ENGINE

From Page 1

"We lost 10 megawatts of power at Power Plant 1. And we're only producing 20 megawatts, so essentially that's half of the power production," Muna said.

When such a power shortage occurs, no power supply could be siphoned from elsewhere and all the feeders must be dropped, he said.

CUC acting spokesperson Gary P. Camacho said that Wednesday's load shedding schedule was expanded throughout the night due to ongoing repairs on engine No. 8 and mechanical problems with engine No. 3.

Camacho said the load shedding expansion, which included multiple feeder grids, occurred between 10pm Wednesday and 4am Thursday.

"Multiple feeders were required to be taken offline due to insufficient power generation and to prevent the overloading of the other operational units and avert the possibility of an islandwide power outage," he said.

Camacho said that engine No. 3 was repaired and was back online at 3:30am Thursday. However, repairs on engine No. 8 won't be completed until late Thursday evening.

Therefore, Camacho said, yesterday's load shedding schedule should be revised due to lack of power production until repairs are finalized.

Water and wastewater services will also be affected in the earlier affected areas as a result of the power outages.

With respect to the CUC crew who worked at the Power Plant operational room Wednesday night, Muna said those people really tried their best to prevent an islandwide blackout. He said the CUC crew worked through Wednesday night at the plant's operational room to stave off an islandwide blackout.

"The bottom line is, this is no surprise. This is what it is. This is what we should we expect if we don't get anything in between," Muna said.

He added that people can expect more outages if CUC and the government continue to delay taking action—either in the form of acquiring the Aggreko International contract or fixing power engines 5 and 7.

Under yesterday's revised load shedding schedule, the first rotating outage was from 8am to 10am in Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas.

From 10am to 12pm, the affected areas were portions of As Terlaje and portions of Fina Sisu, Kannat Tabla, Botanical Garden, San Vicente, Dandan, Airport Road, Isley Field and Lower Dandan.

From 11am to 12pm, the outage affected the area from the Fishing Base to the San Jose intersection.

The afternoon outage began at 12pm and extended to 2pm in portions of Capital Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago.

From 2pm to 4pm, portions of Garapan Upper Navy Hill and Annaks Condominiums lost power.

The 4pm to 6pm outage was set in the Lower Base industrial area, and extended north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

From 6pm to 8pm, power was lost in Susupe and from the Mount Carmel area south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya.

The final 8pm to 10pm outage occurred in Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas.

Camacho said CUC would make all efforts to stick to the schedule, but that emergency schedule changes may occur.

Emergency proposals out for repair of two power engines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has started seeking proposals from companies interested in repairing two of the power generators at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base that were left undone by a previous contractor.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they issued the emergency Request for Proposals on Wednesday for the overhaul work on power engines No. 5 and 7.

"That's already in play [emergency RFP] and we hope to have a response for the next 15 days and get somebody back working with the engines," Muna said.

The costs of the overhaul work, the executive director said, will be known after the submission of the interested companies' proposals.

The two engines are large engines.

"We're looking at potentially getting 22 megawatts from those engines when the overhaul gets done. They're rated at 13 megawatts each," Muna said.

He said that since terminating the contract of the previous contractor—Guam-based DCM Group—CUC needs to obtain a replacement.

CUC terminated in July 2008 the $5.1 million deal with DCM after the company failed to repair the generators within the time allotted, as required by the contract.

CUC claimed it has already paid DCM over $400,000.

Meanwhile, CUC officials had a meeting with Gov. Benigno Fitial, some Cabinet members, and lawmakers yesterday regarding the $1.5 million needed to pay Aggreko International that day.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said the outcome of the meeting turned out to be positive.

CUC hired Aggreko to provide up to 15 megawatts of emergency power to Saipan. The company won't bring the rental generators to the island until the utility agency makes a down payment of $1.5 million.

CUC's August fuel rates still at all-time high

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will not increase the electric fuel rate this month, but it is still at an all-time high. The August electric fluctuating fuel rate is the same as last month's rate—41.3 cents per kilowatt an hour.

"We won't have to increase the rates for August. Looks like we are going to be fine. That provides some relief," CUC executive director Antonio Muna told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Muna said CUC would not implement a further increase this month, considering that fuel costs have somehow stabilized.

Under the August rates, residential customers will be charged 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 1.6 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 42.9 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh.

For those using up 501 to 1,000 kWh, they will be assessed 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 6.6 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 47.9 cents per kWh.

Residential customers that will consume 1,001 to 2,000 kWh, they will be paying 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 8.6 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 49.9 cents per kWh.

As for residential customers with over 2,000 kWh consumption, they will be assessed 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 12.7 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 54 cents per kWh.

These are on top of the fixed customer monthly charges of $5.60 that all residential customers will be paying.

For businesses, they will be assessed this month 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 8.6 cents in non-fuel rate, for a total of 49.9 cents per kWh.

In addition, business establishments must also pay the fixed monthly customer charges of $7.67.

CUC revised its power rates on May 3, 2008, more than doubling the previous rates.

Last June, the fluctuating electric fuel rate was 38.7 cents per kWh.

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Motorola V557 (GSM Quad-Band • Camera Phone)
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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

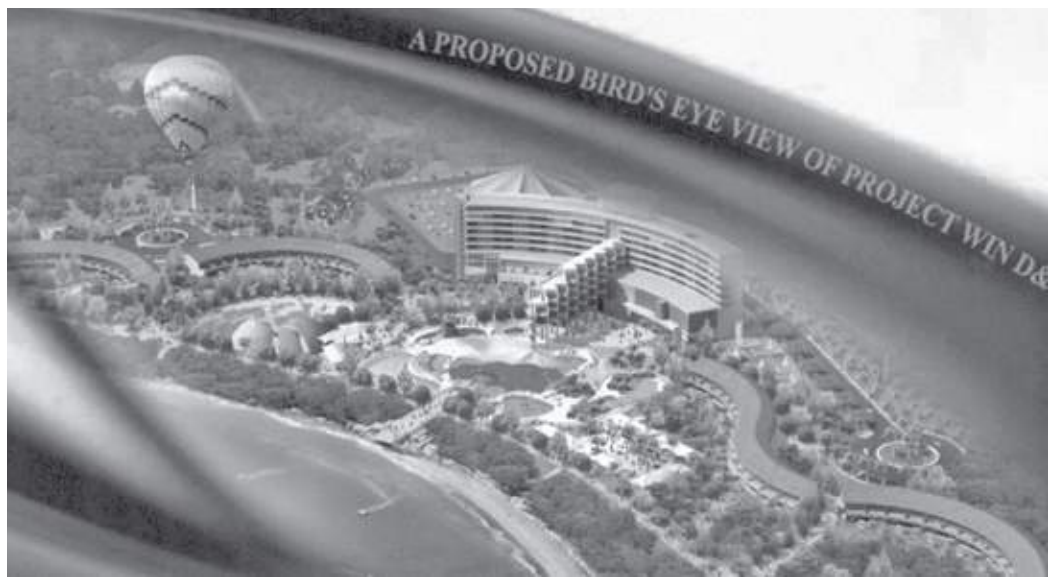
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on August 7, 2008 at 6:00 pm. at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Building, Susupe. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. None
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
1. 2008-0908 A. Vekhov, preliminary plat, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
2. 2008-1197 Jesus G. Villagomez preliminary plat, lot H34NEW
F. Old Business
1. Review and approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
   i. Map 29, Lot 043 L 89 Hayden Corp. rezone from Rural to Industrial
   ii. Map 03, Lot 036 A 04 Buddhist Temple Assn. rezone from Rural to Village Commercial
2. 2008-0302 LaoLao Golftel - review progress on permit conditions
G. New Business.
1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
2. Discussion about Zoning Office operations
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

DPL terminates lease for planned Win DnC hotel

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR



The Department of Public Lands has terminated its lease agreement with Win DnC, a Korean company, on a tract of land in Marpi where it had proposed to build a multi-million dollar hotel, citing the company's failure to pay debts, obtain insurance and provide financing in "good faith" for the project.

In a July 24 letter to Younjai Kim, president of Win DnC, Public Lands Secretary John DelRosario Jr. disclosed that the company has "violated the lease and now has failed to cure the defaults," adding it has 15 days to remove any property from the 49,459 square meter site near the Palms Resort before the department regains control of it.

Win DnC had a 25-year lease agreement with an option to extend the terms by 15 years, according a notice of the lease. The annual rental was based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, which was to be the site of a $200 to $300 million hotel with hundreds of rooms.

Yet DelRosario in an interview Thursday noted Win DnC never supplied the $1 million "good faith" investment it was required to make in a local bank, a sign the company's commitment to the project was weak.

"We want investors of substance," DelRosario said, adding the CNMI needs investment that can ensure local "wealth and job creation."

In addition to failing to provide the necessary investment, DelRosario notes in his letter and a previous Jan. 9 statement that Win DnC never submitted information on its liability insurance or financing to the department, nor has it paid more than $24,000 in debts owed to the government.

"With this lease agreement officially terminated, future plans between Win DnC Co., Ltd and the Department of Public Lands are null and void," the letter said. "DPL can no long accommodate [the company's] proposals for the public property and those adjacent to it."

Neither Kim nor any other official with Win DnC could be reached for comment at press time.

DEDICATION
Congratulations to Jireh Ann Javier Flores on your dedication to the Lord! Love, Mommy and Daddy, Grandma and Grandpa Javier

Blurry Vision?
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If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

Different clan members watch the entertainers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taitano family reunion a success

A committee chaired by Cecilia Taitano-Celes engineered the recent first reunion Mass and celebration of the Benito Aflague Taitano family.

The Benito Clan gathered at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral on July 11 for a special Mass to bless the families. The Mass included a procession of candles representing the members of the Benito Clan that have passed away.

"This brought tears to all of us, as we knew the tears we cried were for the happiness of being together as a family and tears of knowing that our beloved families were present in prayers with us," Taitano-Celes said.

A special message was offered by Fr. Ryan Jimenez that emphasized family unity and family prayer. A family photo session by generation closed the evening.

The reunion celebration took place throughout the day of Saturday, July 12. The celebration, held at the Minatchom Atdao Park in Susupe, was jampacked with exciting entertainment that included performances by Parker Yobei, the Local Boyz, the Polynesian group Tasi and a family band featuring Luis Tilipao's group and Guam's Arnold Kaipat.

Because the Taitano family has grown to include more than 1,000 members, a unique system of color-coding was instituted to set attendees apart by generation. Older generations wore darker colors to help younger generations recognize their elders and pay proper respect.

The reunion was happy to discover that Nick Salas and his sister were both members of the Taitano family.

Another reunion will take place in November of 2009, this time incorporating Taitanos from Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Infrared heating gas stove. Available for both counter top and table top
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Save money and the planet this year! Everything you need to know to benefit from solar and wind energy. Visit us today!

Kilili files candidacy papers for delegate post

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnesd_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's former election chief yesterday found himself standing on the other side of the fence, as he formally filed his candidacy for congressional delegate.

AGNES E. DONATO

Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, submits his candidacy papers at the commission, accompanied by his parents, Jesus and Victorina Sablan, and other family members.

Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, submitted about 1,300 signatures with his nominating petition, significantly exceeding the threshold of 200 signatures to get a petition certified.

Sablan is running as an independent candidate.

In a written statement, Sablan summarized what he plans to do if elected to become the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

He said, "I believe that my chief responsibility if I am elected delegate will be to fulfill [the Covenant's promise of economic self-sufficiency] by working closely with our people and the federal government to advocate for legislation and policy that will help our economy, by securing federal funding that will help our people, and by building relationships with the federal lawmakers—whose decisions in Washington, D.C. reverberate throughout the world, so that these lawmakers understand the Commonwealth's unique economy."

Sablan was accompanied by a large group of family members and supporters when he filed his candidacy papers.

House Floor Leader Joseph James Camacho is one of the supporters who came to witness Sablan's filing. The Republican lawmaker explained his support for the independent candidate by saying that, "Political parties are important. But there are some principles that are higher than political affiliation, and one of them is electing the right man for the right job. I believe that Gregorio Camacho Sablan is that man."

Camacho, who is distributing "Republicans for Kilili" bumper stickers, said he believes Sablan will "work hard and bring as much federal assistance as possible to the Commonwealth."

Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C., is the NMI Republican Party's official candidate for congressional delegate. Tenorio has yet to file his candidacy papers.

To date, those who have made formal bids for the historic position are Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, retired Judge Juan T. Lizama, businessman Chong Won, and former Sen. David Cing.

Other individuals who have announced their interest in running for delegate include Tenorio, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, and Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig.

The last day for filing is Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008. The election will take place on Nov. 4, 2008.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
"This Notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"
July 05, 2008

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2008 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for comment period is Monday, August 4, 2004.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Walking:
A Step in the Right Direction

- Choose a safe place to walk
- Buddy up or walk with a group
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- Assist Product Managers in training employees on company products and services
- Assist with product management of the company's prepaid long distance and landline business
- Draft and review corporate communication for Marketing Manager and distribute to media
- Coordinate and oversee PTI's donation programs consistent with approved external affairs strategies and operational plans
- Perform other related duties as assigned

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing (or related field) or equivalent experience. Four years of progressive experience in marketing, communications or public relations. May substitute education with an equivalent combination of related work experience
- Working knowledge in the design and coordination of marketing, communications and public relations activities. Demonstrated successful experience in drafting press releases and other creative materials, making presentations and negotiating with media. Experience overseeing the design, editing and production of print materials and publications. Advanced computer literacy in word processing and spreadsheet programs. Strong oral and written communication skills. Strong organizational and event management skills. Ability to coordinate multiple projects at the same time. Ability to work under deadline pressure and extra hours if needed on assignment.

Human Resource Office
PTI
P. O. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

PTI is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be received by PTI Human Resources on or before August 4, 2008.

CHC seeks ties with Japanese hospitals

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of the Aichi Children's Hospital in Nagoya, Japan, are meeting with officials from the Commonwealth Health Center and Gov. Benigno Fitial today to discuss a planned partnership between the two hospitals.

The Aichi Hospital representatives will visit CHC today. Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said he hopes a delegation of CHC officials will visit the Nagoya hospital soon to look at the facility.

CHC signed a partnership with Aichi in response to concerns that pediatric patients were not able to make the flight to the United States or Manila to receive specialized treatment. CHC also recently signed an agreement with Nagoya City University Hospital for adult medical treatment.

"It's for just really, really serious cases that need to get to a hospital facility immediately," Villagomez said.

Previously, pediatric patients were sent to San Diego, California. Transporting to Japan costs about a third of what it costs to send patient to San Diego, he said.

But, ultimately, Villagomez said, the change came about because it was taking patients too long to get the help they needed.

With recent airline cutbacks, patients were forced to go through Guam to travel to many major hospitals. To fly to Honolulu, where the closest U.S. hospital is located, it took seven to eight hours.

"That's very taxing to the body," he added.

It is also easier for family members to visit patients in Japan, he said.

CHC has sent three babies to Nagoya in the past two years and will probably send a fourth soon, Villagomez said. One of the reasons Aichi was chosen was because there are daily flights from Saipan to Nagoya.

The major drawback with using Japanese hospitals is insurance. Japan does not recognize the same medical insurance, Villagomez said, so the government must front the payment in order for the patient to receive treatment. Monetary details are then worked out with patients and insurance companies, which, Villagomez said, "can be tedious at best." Because the hospitals are going out of their way to offer the services, it's important they are paid "within a timely basis," Villagomez said. "We can not have them waiting around."

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 01, 2000

CUC renews plea for $12M unpaid govt bills
Because of its impact on future plans and infrastructure projects, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has pressed anew its effort to collect over $12 million owed by the government in unpaid utility bills. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero wrote a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as recent as two weeks ago, reiterating the need to settle the debt through a payment schedule offered months ago by the government-owned corporation.

OIA official steps in to fast-track THS project
An Office of Insular Affairs official met yesterday with members of the Board of Education to discuss a possible compromise between the Public School System and Guerrero Brothers Inc., the project contractor for the long-delayed Tinian High School project. The move has been initiated to put an end to the long-standing battle between PSS and GBI and finally expedite the OIA-funded undertaking. The project has been under OIA probe since GBI stopped its construction in 1996.

PREL to develop experts on information technology
The Pacific Resources for Education and Learning has disclosed plans to address the region's ineptitude in the field of information technology, one which could benefit the CNMI and the rest of the Pacific through a federally-subsidized IT professional development program. Pacific educators, during last week's 17th Pacific Educational Conference held in Palau, raised concerns that Pacific island entities compared to other regions lag behind in the IT area.

August 01, 2001

Missing Chinese feared dead
Authorities decided to call off the rescue operations to locate the three Chinese nationals who remain missing after their boat capsized off Tinian Sunday, raising fears that the victims may already be dead. The decision came as government operatives strongly suspect that the Chinese nationals are part of human smuggling operations even if the Department of Labor and Immigration's head office on Saipan did not confirm the aliens' immigration status in the CNMI.

Higher PSS funding hangs by a thread
With the killer amendments attached to it by the Senate, the initiative that would have increased the budget of the Public School System by 10 percent has virtually zero chances now of being passed into law. This developed after House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said that the House of Representatives has no plans of touching House Legislative Initiative 12-001 due to the defective amendments made on the initiative.

Health expert warns vs airborne diseases
Health experts are bracing for a wave of airborne diseases expected to hit the islands this year, known to prey on both adults and children. Two months into the flu season, the health department is keeping a close eye on two common illnesses anticipated to affect island residents, namely; Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus. "Influenza is probably brought over by tourists, sick passengers who hop on the plane bring it here," said Department of Public Health Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom.

August 01, 2002

Govt may cut work hours
The Babauta administration is looking at possibly reducing the work hours of government personnel, as it struggles to contain an $18-million budget deficit that is feared to even escalate if appropriate measures are not undertaken. The bulk of the projected deficit at the end of the fiscal year comes from the Department of Public Health. Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan said the department's deficit is inevitable and is expected to reach $9.4 million, as it still needs to buy medicines and other medical supplies.

House sets 10 pre-conditions for govt
The House of Representatives can only allow the Babauta administration to spend beyond the $193 million level set for this fiscal year if it bites the bullet and implements cost-cutting measures that would show proof it is practicing due diligence. During Monday's meeting between Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the lower chamber, House leaders outlined 10 courses of action that the administration may take to prove due diligence in its financial actions.

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Sale starts on Aug. 1 to 7, 2008

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$11.99

Ladies Maya Junior Raglan Tees
$6.99

Best Buys!

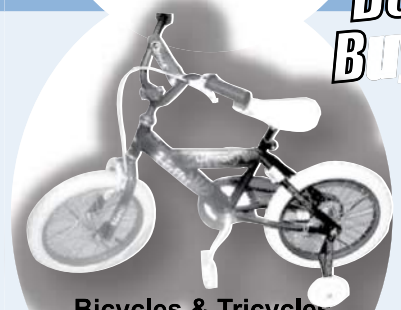
Boy's Stripe Polo Shirts
$8.99

Best Buys!

Girl's Play Sets
$14.99

Best Buys!

Infant Bear/Bunny Teether 2pk.
$1.29

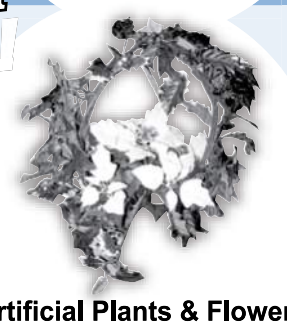


Bicycles & Tricycles
25% off

Best Buys!

Rugs & Linens
25% off

Best Buys!



Artificial Plants & Flowers
25% off

Aquamarine Lotion 14.8oz.
2 FOR $3.00

WF Toothbrush 1+1
2 FOR $1.50

WhiteRain Shampoo and Conditioner 19.9oz.
2 FOR $3.50

Colgate Toothpaste 8.2oz.
$2.99

Folding Chair with Double Cup Handle
$19.99

Zojirushi Rice Cooker 10 Cups
$97.99

Proctor Silex 12 Cup Coffeemaker
$25.99

Presto 6 Qrt. Pressure Cooker
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Proctor Meal Maker Toaster
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Toastmaster 4 sliced Oven Toaster
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U.S. Romaine Hearts Lettuce $2.59 bg.

U.S. Ginger $1.39 lb.

U.S. Honey Dew $1.19 lb.

U.S. Lemon $1.69 lb.

U.S. Cello Lettuce $1.49 pc.

U.S. Cantaloupe $1.10 lb.

U.S. Seedless Grapes $1.85 lb.

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Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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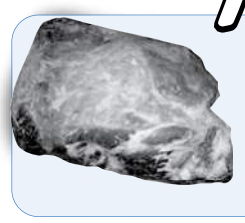
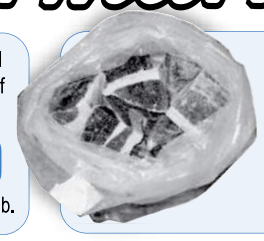
Check out new arrivals of Men's, Ladies, Boys, Girls & Infants clothing!

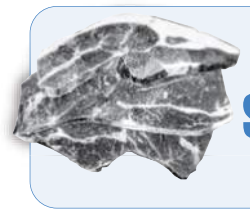
Supermarket



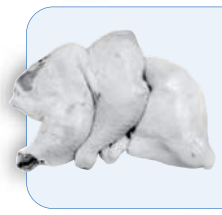
New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99 /lb.



New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99



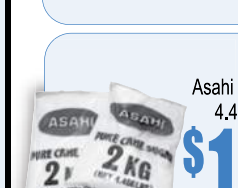
New Zealand Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.



Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$19.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$18.99 /cs.

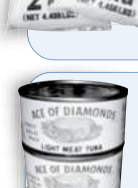
New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$5.99 /ea.



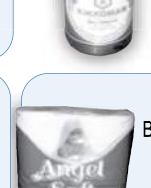
Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb.
$1.79 /ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99 /ea.

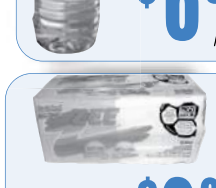
Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.50 /cs.



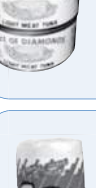
ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
99¢ /ea.



Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.79 /ea.



Zee Napkins 120 ct.
$2.09 /ea.



So Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.39 /ea.

Bud Family Beer Can
$24.98 /cs.
$12.49 12p

Miller Family Beer Can
$24.98 /cs.
$12.49 12pk.

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We are not responsible for any typographical or printing error

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 214

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EDITORIAL

Olympic reprieve

The International Olympic Committee partly reversed its ban on Iraq this week, grudgingly allowing two of the country's seven athletes to enter the upcoming Games in Beijing. The concession, an IOC spokesman said, was based on a promise by the Iraqi government to resolve a dispute over its national Olympic committee by holding free elections for its members under IOC observation. The eleventh-hour reprieve is good news for the two track and field competitors, including 21-year-old sprinter Dana Hussein Abdul Razzaq, the only woman on Iraq's team. But it's difficult to accept that five other Iraqi athletes, including would-be competitors in archery, judo, rowing and weightlifting, remain banned by bureaucratic fiat—and even harder to stomach is the IOC's pretense of enforcing impartial rules and democratic principles.

Iraq's Olympic troubles were partly caused by the ham-handed way in which its government replaced its Olympic committee, which was devastated by a mass kidnapping. But the squabble mostly reflects the vindictive behavior of an international bureaucracy that has singled out one country for zealous enforcement of regulations that it ignores in police states throughout the world—starting with this year's host, China. The IOC's Belgian president, Jacques Rogge, has allowed Beijing to skirt its pledges on media freedom and tolerated a pre-Games crackdown on dissent. Yet his administration has gone out of its way to impose the letter of the rulebook on fragile, war-torn Iraq—even though its Olympic committee, however flawed, is a vast improvement on the one that was headed by Uday Hussein, Saddam's sadistic son.

Mind you, we're all in favor of injecting democracy into the Olympic movement. We look forward to the IOC's demand that North Korea and Cuba eliminate government influence over their Olympic programs and hold free elections for new Olympic committees. Iraq, of course, does not have an IOC delegate, and its principal supporter, the United States, does not hold a seat on the governing executive committee—though Puerto Rico has one. The U.S. was voted off two years ago, during the same meeting at which the IOC decided to drop American-favored baseball and softball as Olympic sports.

Could the IOC's persecution of Iraq have something to do with the committee's conspicuous anti-Americanism? Maybe not. But perhaps this would be a good time for American sports authorities to ask why an institution largely funded by U.S. companies has become so intent on embarrassing the United States and its allies.

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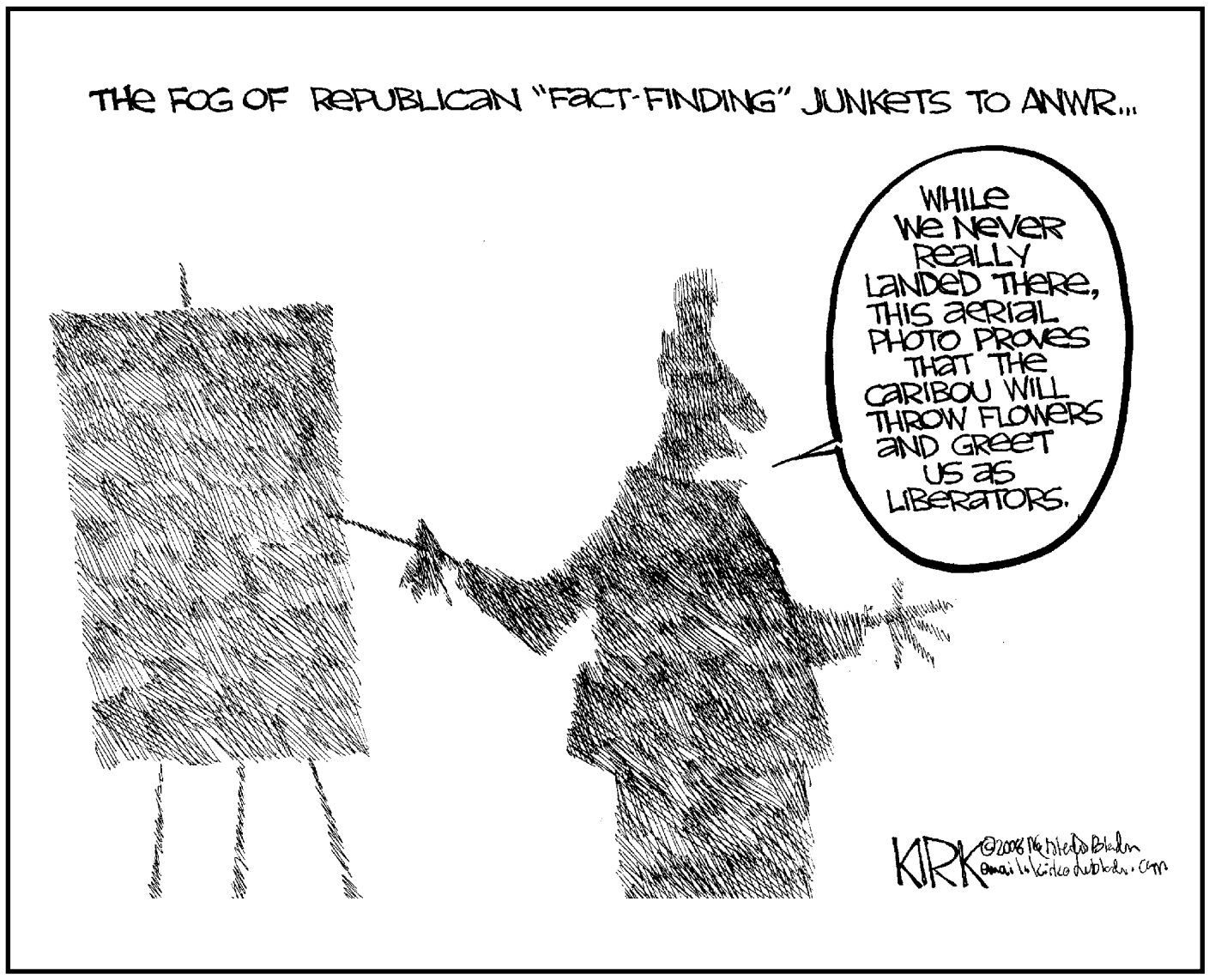

THE FOG OF REPUBLICAN "FACT-FINDING" JUNKETS TO ANWR...
WHILE WE NEVER REALLY LANDED THERE, THIS AERIAL PHOTO PROVES THAT THE CARIBOU WILL THROW FLOWERS AND GREET US AS LIBERATORS.
KIRK

Memory circuits

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Journalistic corrections are usually dressed down, not up, but it's not often that somebody botches a time reference by an entire decade. But that's just what I did, when, in last week's column, I referred to an earlier piece I ran here in "1988 or so." I meant to say "1998" or so. So, I was off by a decade.

That's an innocuous enough typo, but here's the scary thing: Past years, for me, are starting to blend in and run together. Is this middle age?

It's not that my brain is going soft. My long-term memory has a sticky quirk for academic detail. I can remember, from old textbooks, long equations, detailed graphs, and entire paragraphs, most of which I can actually visualize like a snapshot. I'll note that this detail only sticks with me if I cared about it to begin with, even outside of academic stuff. So I can tell you the spark plug gap for the old cars I've had. I can recall engine limits and engineering details on helicopter models that I haven't flown, or even seen, in a decade. I seem to think in terms of numbers and quantitative relationships.

Well, why not?

After all, math is truth.

But words are just words, so why not be selectively deaf?

So I can't even tell you the name of the back-slapping blowhard I've met at a business luncheon just two minutes after the fact. Nor can I recall even one word of what somebody sitting next to me on an airliner says during his three-hour-long monologue that offers the highlights of his painfully boring career in (fill in the blank).

And here I confront the reciprocal case of my memory circuits: If I don't care about something, or somebody, the data don't even enter my short-term memory, let alone my cerebral hard drive. It's not that I forget that stuff. It's that it never registers in the first place.

As a result, beyond the social imperatives necessary to be a gentleman (if barely), I'll admit that I can't shift from being perfunctorily polite to being successfully phony. Humanity is so tediously homogenous that you can lump it into about four categories, which renders further effort wasteful. (Author Robert Ringer lumped people into three types, so I'm being generous here; philosopher Eric Hoffer distilled things down even further.)

Fortunately, I do have professional acquaintances who thrive on cataloging social behaviors and alliances, and are thus walking encyclopedias of Saipan's various intrigues. They know every political figure in Saipan, their family lineages, which relative was awarded which job, all of their histories, their alliances, and so on. They can give me the dirt on a guy for a half an hour, then dial him up on the phone and chat him up, pretending to be best buddies.

Insights from this realm can be very useful, when, for example, I have to write reports about the CNMI, and I have to explain things that are otherwise utterly inexplicable from a purely economic standpoint. But I don't find this information intrinsically interesting, as useful as it may be for specific applications.

One of the best things about the tropics in general, and Saipan in particular, is that there are a lot of genuinely interesting people. There are still some adventurers, independent-minded professionals, and such. I never have any trouble remembering these folks, though, in the CNMI's case, their ranks are dwindling as they go to more vibrant venues where "private sector" isn't spoken in such hated tones.

Meanwhile, one of the best things about the tropics in general, and Saipan in particular, is that there are a lot of genuinely interesting people. There are still some adventurers, independent-minded professionals, and such. I never have any trouble remembering these folks, though, in the CNMI's case, their ranks are dwindling as they go to more vibrant venues where "private sector" isn't spoken in such hated tones.

It has been said that happiness is good health and a bad memory. I'll accept about three-quarters of that, and say that happiness is good health and a memory that wasn't defiled with garbage. After all, the only thing worse than wasting gas at five bucks a gallon is squandering your attention, which is priceless.

Now if I can only remember the fact that 1988 isn't 1998, I'll be in good shape.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Who's lying now?

We are writing in response to Ms. Ruthe Tighe's latest article on the Pew Charitable Trust's move to have President Bush proclaim the CNMI EEZ waters surrounding the three northernmost islands of the Marianas Archipelago (Asunsion, Maug and Uracas) as a marine national monument. Ms. Tighe's intemperate outburst on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council betrays the frustration which she and the Pew Environmental Group are experiencing in securing populist support for the Commonwealth to cede one third of its territory for a mere 30 pieces of silver! Before we answer Ms. Tighe's nonsensical diatribe point by point, let us all remember that Pew is Big Oil in green clothing; Big Oil, which, if the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is correct, is at the root of global warming.

Ms. Tighe favors us with a dictionary definition of fishing as though it were somehow an evil pursuit, when in fact it is how millions of people put food on the table daily for their families, including folks in the CNMI. Turning to one of the many online dictionaries, we found the following definitions of "lying" as a verb: The telling of lies; as a noun: untruthfulness; and as an adjective: telling or containing lies; deliberately untruthful; mendacious; false. We think that this more than adequately describes the assertions made about WesPac in Ms. Tighe's article.

In her confused rambling, Ms. Tighe claims that the creation of the monument would result in a reduction of the WesPac budget as a result of lost jurisdiction. By this token, then WesPac would be receiving the lion's share of federal dollars for Councils by virtue of administering half of all U.S. EEZ waters. The fact is, the Council receives more jurisdiction. In other words, "size doesn't matter."

Ms. Tighe asserts that WesPac has been active in making presentations on the monument at every opportunity. Indeed, WesPac has deliberated on the monument at two Council meetings and invited the Pew representatives to make their pitch at these meetings for the monument. On both occasions they have declined, despite being seen skulking in the audience. Clearly, they don't appear to have the courage of their convictions. Moreover, we fail to see what is wrong with presenting alternative arguments to those in favor of the monument; this is called open debate and is a feature of a democratic society. Perhaps Ms. Tighe needs a refresher course in civics to be reminded of this.

Similarly, Ms. Tighe also asserts that WesPac's influence is so terrible that most of those seen supporting the declaration of the waters surrounding Maug, Uracas, Asuncion as a national marine monument appear to be non-local. She continues that "government employees, largely local, and their families have been thoroughly intimidated—not to mention brainwashed—by fellow islanders whereas non-locals, largely not government employees, are thus immune to such intimidation." Clearly, the several decades Ms. Tighe has spent in the Pacific Islands appear to have been wasted if she has not understood that Pacific Island societies, even those with strong hierarchical systems, allow *everybody* to have their say. Ms. Tighe's statements about intimidation and brainwashing by fellow islanders are not just wrong but a shameful insult to the people of the CNMI.

In addition, the democratically elected representatives of the people of the CNMI, from the Governor and the Legislature, to the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands, have unanimously opposed the monument. What is it about "no" that Ms. Tighe and her Pew associates don't understand? WesPac has gone on record stating that it will abide by the decision of the CNMI government and its people on the establishment of the monument. At present, there seems to be unanimous opposition to the monument; thus the Council interprets this to mean "no" and not "yes".

Turning now to Ms. Tighe's assertions about the Council itself and its conduct of fishery management, she lays all the global fishery problems at WesPac's door, whether they occur in the Pacific or not, including the collapse of New England's cod fishery! From Ms. Tighe's comments, one would suspect that the Council is composed entirely of commercial fishermen. In fact, of the 13 voting Council members, only three have any connection to commercial fishing. The remainders are composed of cultural practitioners, recreational fishermen, state and federal government officials and, despite Ms. Tighe's statement to the contrary, also includes an environmentalist, Mr. Peter Young of the organization Ho'okuleana (to take responsibility). Further, a recent vacant seat for Hawaii was not filled with a commercial fisherman but with an eminent fisheries scientist with a long track record of distinguished research on Pacific tunas.

With respect to WesPac's track record, this Council banned bottom-trawls and drift gillnets in the Western Pacific in the 1980s long before they became fashionable targets for Pew and other members of the environmental community. Among other fishery conservation achievement, this Council has developed the most environmentally responsible pelagic longline fishing methods, whereby turtle interactions, once numbering in the hundreds in the Hawaii fishery have declined to near zero levels. In fact in 2008, not a single loggerhead turtle has been caught by the Hawaii swordfish longline fishery, despite the population showing a marked resurgence over the past decade, thanks in part to Council-funded conservation in Japan. Indeed, Council-funded turtle conservation in Japan and Melanesia during this decade has resulted in an additional 108,000 loggerhead and 177,000 leatherback hatchlings recruited to their respective populations. Perhaps Ms. Tighe would like to inform readers what she has personally done to conserve turtles and other marine animals to which she so passionately refers in her article?

Ms. Tighe's comments about purse seining frankly display the embarrassing depths of her ignorance about the region and fishery management. U.S. purse seiners in the Western Pacific fisheries operate under an international treaty between the U.S. and the independent Pacific Island states, administered in the U.S. by the Department of State and National Marine Fisheries Service. The Council only has jurisdiction over the fleet when it fishes in the U.S. EEZ. A perusal of the latest Council actions would inform Mr. Tighe that the *Council voted to prohibit all purse seine fishing within the U.S. EEZ waters around both Guam and the CNMI.* Further, because of the wide scale use of instrumented fish aggregating devices, or "signal emitting logs" as Ms. Tighe calls them, this Council has recommended strict controls on FAD fishing within the U.S. EEZ in the Western Pacific.

Finally, Ms. Tighe attempts to create the impression that WesPac is some vast shadowy, mysterious conspiratorial entity with a powerful hold on governments, people and the media. Like the other Regional Fishery Management Councils, WesPac is a federal creation established by an Act of Congress in 1976, and wholly funded through the Department of Commerce. It has a staff of less than 20 people to develop federal fishery management policies for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Hawaii and a group of uninhabited or military-controlled small atolls and islands in the Central Pacific. Its meetings are open to the public and time is set aside at each meeting for public comments, even for items not on the meeting agenda. Notices of meetings are publicized in the Federal Register, in newspapers, radio, and on the Council's website. All decision making takes place in public with the wording of recommendations shown so that the public can comment on these as decisions are made.

By contrast, the Pew Environmental Group is an arm of the Pew Charitable Trusts, which derives much of its income from the oil industry. It is not a transparent organization like the Council and employs public relations firms (e.g. Scott Foster & Associates of Honolulu) to impugn the reputations of the Council and Council family if Council opinion conflicts with the Pew mantra. If the Marianas Trench monument argument is so convincing, then it should sink or swim on its own merits, without the need for Pew to resort to the sleazy smear tactics more befitting a political campaign.

Finally, in the interests of transparency, Ms. Tighe might wish to confirm that she is not receiving any funds from the Pew Environmental Group, and that her latest bilious diatribe is simply a vitriolic expression of her frustration with democracy in action.

Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz
CNMI WesPac Council member & Secretary, DLNR

Benigno "Ben" M. Sablan
CNMI WesPac Council member & cultural practitioner

We are not alone in our opposition

I thought the people of the CNMI should know that they are not alone in opposing the designation of a national marine monument in their backyard. A similar scenario is being played out in the U.S. mainland where there is growing significant resistance over the proposed "Islands in the Stream" Monument. Interestingly, the specific concerns being expressed by the mainlanders echo those we have expressed here in the Marianas, or vice versa.

According to a National Public Radio broadcast on July 26, 2008, the unofficial short list of proposed marine monuments include the Rose Atoll in American Samoa, U.S. Pacific Remote Islands (central Pacific area), Mariana Trench in the Mariana Islands, the deep sea coral beds along the southeastern U.S. coast, and "*Islands in the Stream*" located in the Gulf of Mexico. The legal instrument of choice that would be used to designate the national monuments is the Antiquities Act of 1906. This approach is simple and relatively quick—a unilateral action by the President that does not require public review and stakeholder involvement. Should these proposed monuments be pursued in the creation of the President's "blue legacy," they could be legally designated within six months.

The approach that would be utilized to designate national marine monuments is more autocratic than democratic. I find it amazing that our island enviro-extremists do not see anything wrong with this approach. Instead, they see it as a golden opportunity to push their personal preservationist agenda without having to address the concerns or needs of the real stakeholders—the fishermen, other resource users and indigenous island communities. Case in point was the recent comment made by Ms. Ruth Tighe in her Letter to the Editor dated July 16, 2008: "*It should also be noted that it took Hawaii seven years to overcome political pressures exerted by fishing interests*." This attitude of not giving a tinker's damn about the opinion of others, even stakeholders, appears to permeate the Pew monument supporters (PMS) and is reinforced time and time again whenever they attack those who do not agree with their ideological views on conservation. But I digress; back to the issue at hand…

The proposed "*Islands in the Stream*" monument is based on a concept paper developed by the National Ocean Service (a NOAA agency). By the way, this is the same agency that would be given *primary* management authority over the federal ocean component of any new monuments. The overarching goal of this particular endeavor is to create a network of marine protected areas, MPAs, in the Gulf of Mexico that would be interconnected by the Loop Current (an oceanic current). It is my understanding that the exact boundaries have not yet been finalized, but may include the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, NW Gulf Reefs and Banks, Madison Swanson, Florida Middle Grounds, Steamboat Lumps, Pulley Ridge and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The concept paper also proposes that additional ecologically connected MPAs be established off the coasts of Mexico and Belize, making this the largest and first international MPA network. Unlike the CNMI where we have the Pew Charitable Trusts advocating for their marine monument, the proposed "Islands in the Stream" monument does not have a particular group actively supporting its designation.

The proposed "Islands in the Stream" Monument has already generated opposition from stateside legislators, specifically Sen. David Vitter from Louisiana and Sens. Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby from Alabama. As early as October 2007, Sen. Vitter relayed his concerns over the proposed monument in a letter to Chairman Connaughton at CEQ. Sen. Vitter expressed "*serious concerns with the President attempting to use this authority* [the Antiquities Act of 1906] *to adversely affect recreational and commercial fishermen and to prevent energy production from safe, secure domestic sources without the benefit of public participation."*

In November of the following month, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council raised several serious shortcomings in the designation process; a lack of public input and stakeholder involvement. Their letter, sent to the U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary, recommended following the accepted guidelines established by Executive Order 13158 (Marine Protected Areas) for the creation of MPAs.

On Feb. 5, 2008, the American Sportfishing Association and Congressional Sportmen's Foundation wrote to CEQ and articulated these very same concerns and recommended that "*any further designations* [of MPAs] *must be accompanied by a transparent process with robust stakeholder participation."*

Similar concerns were expressed by the Coastal Conservation Association in a letter to the CEQ, dated April 10, 2008. The CCA is a large (90,000 + members) conservation non-profit NGO organization that is comprised of 17 coastal state chapters spanning the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

A follow up letter was sent by Sens. Vitter, Sessions and Shelby on April 21, 2008, to CEQ emphasizing their opposition to the approach being used to designate the "Islands in the Stream" Monu-

See WE ARE on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

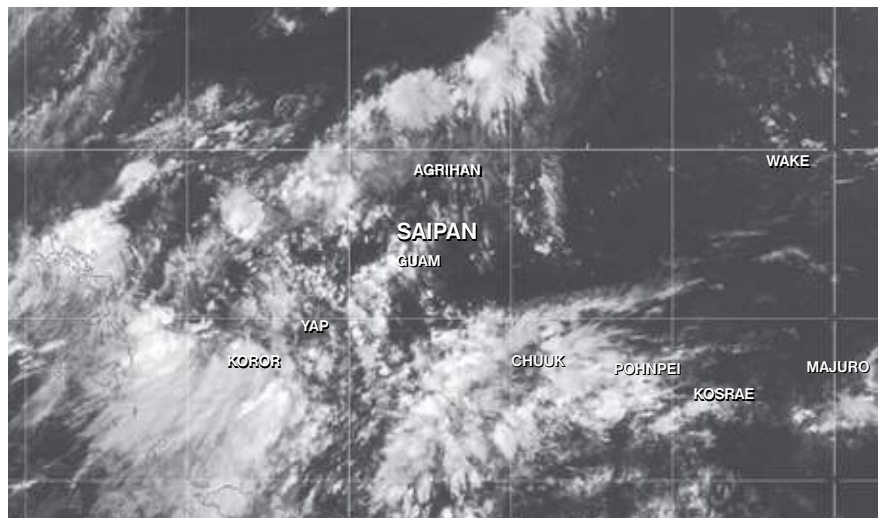
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲88	▼74
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲74	▼61
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲85	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼71
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲78	▼57
Pusan	Showers	▲85	▼73
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼67
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 11N130E southeastward to a broad weak surface circulation centered near 8N132E. The trough then protrudes eastward where it terminates at 5N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms cover a large area around the trough and circulation from 10N130E to 10N142E to 3N142E to 3N133E to 5N130E and back to 10N130E. The area includes Yap state and the Republic of Palau. Another trough extends from the circulation center at 8N132E northeastward to 25N146E. Low-level winds converging near the trough are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just west of the Mariana Islands and north of Yap or from 10N130E to 15N130E to 25N148E to 22N150E to 18N141E to 15N144E to 10N142E and back to 10N130E. A weak north-south oriented surface trough stretches from the EQ149E to 8N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend along and east of the trough from Chuuk state across Pohnpei state to near Kosrae. This area is from EQ142E to 8N145E to 10N151E to 5N162E to 4N152E to EQ148E and back to EQ142E. Trade wind convergence east of the Marshall Islands is producing an area of scattered, mostly light showers within 100 miles of a line from 3N170E to 10N177E. This area is affecting the southern Marshall Islands including Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:16AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:10AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:45PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:49PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00AM	6:46 PM
Monday	6:00AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	6:00AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:27AM	6:42PM
Saturday	6:29AM	7:28PM
Sunday	7:27AM	8:09PM
Monday	8:21AM	8:48PM
Tuesday	9:13AM	9:25PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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WE ARE

From Page 11

ment. Due to the short time period before the President leaves office, they believed there was insufficient time to create a "blue legacy" and, at the same time, provide a fair and equitable opportunity "*to fully consider the variety of public interests that must be represented...*" They suggested "*such a significant project should not move forward without the participation and support of the many stakeholders involved.*"

As an aside, on April 29, 2008, of the following week, Governor Fitial informed President Bush (via letter) of the CNMI's opposition to the proposed Pew monument. The Governor was heavily criticized by the PMS group who claimed he acted hastily.

As recent as last month, President Bush received yet another letter (dated June 10, 2008) that was co-signed by numerous NGOs opposing the "Islands in the Stream" monument. They expressed disagreement with the conclusion reached when the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Monument was being designated, that "*recreational fishing was harmful to the environment.*" As such, these activist groups were "*gravely concerned that future designations will reaffirm this new standard....*" An alternative approach suggested in their letter was the adoption of a "*designation process that includes a robust, science-based, public comment process that provides for the meaningful participation of recreational anglers, boaters and sportsmen, and recognizes the needs and contributions of these user groups.*" Those groups that signed this letter include: American Sportfishing Association; BASS/ESPN Outdoors; Coastal Conservation Association; Congressional Sportmen's Foundation; International Game Fish Association; National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses; National Marine Manufacturers Association; and The Billfish Foundation.

Some may ask how large conservation activist groups can dare oppose the "Islands in the Stream" monument. The reasons are very simple: a complete lack of public input and stakeholder involvement, and the fact that the Antiquities Act completely ignores the guidelines and procedures established for the creation of MPAs. The CCA letter (April 10, 2008) made an excellent point: "*If these areas are environmentally sensitive and warrant protection, there is ample authority under the existing laws to protect them without expanding the sanctuaries program.*"

Despite the large geographical differences between the Gulf of Mexico and the Mariana Islands, the joint opposition for the proposed "Islands in the Stream" and Pew monuments are similar: (1) irresponsibly creating very large oceanic "no-take" MPAs without following established guidelines;

(2) the permanent prohibition of commercial and (most likely) recreational fishing;

(3) the permanent prohibition of oil, gas and mineral extraction; and

(4) using a designation process (i.e., Antiquities Act) that has no legal requirements for public input and stakeholder involvement.

To make this scenario more objectionable, the time line for the decision making process is established by artificial political deadlines and not by the need of the affected communities.

As if we were all children, the PMS continue to beleaguer us about all the perceived benefits of their monument proposal, all the time ignoring the fact that the wants and needs of the CNMI cannot possibly fit in with their plans of a "no-take" MPA monument. The Pew lobbyist claimed during the Kagman Community Center public meeting on May 1, 2008, that the CNMI can negotiate anything they want with the federal government; they just need to come to the table. This irresponsible statement is misleading at best. The legal constraints imposed by the Antiquities Act, coupled with the stated goals/objectives of the new management authority (i.e. NOS - National Marine Sanctuaries Program)

See WE ARE on Next Page

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, DEQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, DEQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Director of DEQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. DEQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

1. **APPLICANT**: National Park Service (NPS), American Memorial Park, P.O. Box 5198 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950

2. **APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY**: CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Parts 3 and 10 (Commonwealth Register Vol. 26 No. 09, September 24, 2004).

3. **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY**: American Memorial Park, located in Smiling Cove Marina, village of Garapan, Saipan.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY**: The project consists of the following components: installation of approximately 1000 linear feet of sheet pile along harbor shoreline, construction of rock rip-rap slope protection structure, site improvements including erosion control measures, removal of debris, and installation of navigational aid devices. Approximately 338 cubic yards of excavated material, and construction of the various improvements will result in the placement of approximately 1,600 cubic yards of gravel fill.

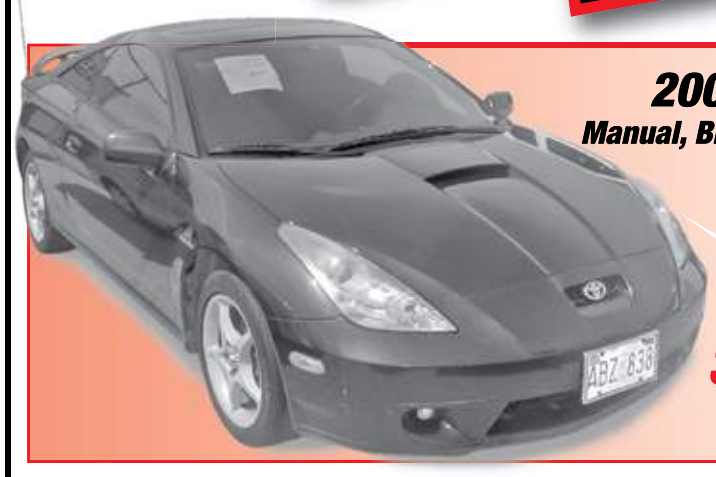
5. **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**: Rehabilitation work will kill non-mobile or slow moving organisms. There is limited coral growth in the proposed cut/fill areas; however, coral growth increases along certain areas on the seaward edge of the adjacent fringing reefs which may be temporarily impacted by sediment plumes generated by construction activities.

6. **PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**: Silt curtains will be utilized as needed to minimize the spread of the sediment plume onto the nearby live coral colonies. The applicant will monitor water quality as required to ensure proper operation of the silt curtains. Dredge material will be reused as fill for the adjacent parking lot and rehabilitation of the concrete pier. Dredge material not utilized on-site will be disposed at the municipal dump or other approved site. Site improvements will alleviate existing erosion and sedimentation problems. The applicant will work with DEQ during the project to identify any other reasonable mitigative measures that may become necessary.

Written comments and inquires should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



2000 CELICA 2DR
Manual, Blue, Stock: U08-043P
License: ABZ838
Mileage: 72097
PRICE
$7,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~$29,999~~	$28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~12,499~~	11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR.	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,195~~	19,099

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Marianas Trench Marine Monument

FACT SHEET, *continued*

What about rights to fishing, mining? The idea of a national marine monument is to provide a sanctuary, so no commercial fishing would be allowed. Even if anything worth mining were found, the waters and submerged lands around the three northern islands belong to the federal government, so it would not benefit the CNMI. A recently completed economic study found that the monument would bring in at least 10 times as much money as could be brought in from either fishing or mining - assuming the CNMI had rights there. And that money would start now - not at some unknown time in the future.

How did the Marianas area come to the attention of the President in the first place? The president asked his Council on Environmental Quality to identify areas that might be eligible as a marine monument. The Council turned to individuals, governments and non-government agencies interested in the marine environment for their suggestions. The waters around the CNMI's northernmost islands were proposed by the Pew Charitable Trust's Ocean Legacy Division because it is a large area with interesting characteristics, because it borders on the Marianas Trench, and because it is remote enough to be relatively undamaged.

What happens now? The CNMI is on the short list of candidates. This list is expected to be shortened even further, and then, if the CNMI is still a candidate, federal officials will come out and do an assessment/evaluation of the feasibility of a national marine monument in the CNMI. Should the CNMI pass that evaluation, the president would likely make the monument declaration in November, after the elections.

How will it be governed? What would it look like? That depends on what is worked out once the monument is established. Representatives from the various affected federal agencies as well as from the various CNMI agencies, and the CNMI community, would get together to work out the specific details governing the operation, management, and control of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

If I want to help make this happen, what should I do? Help collect petition signatures, write letters to the editor expressing your support, contact others who also support the monument: **Alexie Zotomayor** at <aleksea@yahoo.com>, **Bryan Jones** at <cbjphoto@pticom.com> **Chuck Sayon** <cfsayon@hotmail.com>, **Chailang Palacios** at <palpower@pticom.com>, **Ike Cabrera** at <inac1@pticom.com>,**Jane Mack** at <janemack@itecnmi.com>, **Ken Kramer** at <ken_kramer0886@yahoo.com>, or **Ruth L. Tighe** at <ruth.tighe@pticom.com>.

Brought to you by the Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

Letter to the Editor

Act now!

The declining revenues from the Dynasty are not the fault of the decline in the general CNMI economy. The current funding shortfall is solely due to the failure of the Mayor of Tinian and the Tinian Legislative Delegation to deal with the completion of the airport over the last two and half years. Had they focused on the development of the airport from day one—the installation of the instrument landing system and the necessary fuel tanks—Tinian and the CNMI would be swimming in money now. Instead, they focused on travel to Manila and trivial vote-buying projects. The self-centered elected leadership in Saipan is not free from blame. They have totally ignored an economic development opportunity that would have defused the loss of the garment industry. Now the people of Tinian and the people of CNMI are going to suffer even more than they are now.

There is no reason to expect any active support from any Saipan politician, other than Washington Representative Tenorio, as there are no votes for them here. It is time for the Tinian elected leadership to either step up the plate and get aggressive about infrastructure development on Tinian, or step down. Otherwise, the people of Tinian will have to suffer for another 17 months before we can toss out the incumbents and elect new leadership.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

WE ARE

From Page 13

will simply not allow the CNMI to achieve their goal of utilizing natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner. The wishes of the CNMI, as I understand them, and what Pew is proposing are incompatible. No matter how much talking we do at the negotiation table with the federal government, it won't change this fact.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

State Board of Education
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP# 08-020

The Public School System (PSS) and the State Board of Education are soliciting for request for proposals for an individual/vendor for the One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the **Marianas High School Gymnasium** for PSS. Detailed information on the Scope of Work are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Proposals and (Responsibility Determination-Confidential) documents must be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP # 08-020 "One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the **Marianas High School Gymnasium**" and submitted & labeled one (1) original with three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than August 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Any bids after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, at fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp***. Questions must be in writing and submitted to AP&SO no later than Ten (10) working days prior to the deadline to submit the proposals.

The bidders are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their valid CNMI Business License to conduct Janitorial Services (Supply & Services).

The selection of an individual or firm will be based on the following criteria: Qualification of Firm-30 Points, Performance Record-30 Points and Price-40 Points a total of 100 Points.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3062 or 3077 or faxed to 664-3791.

/S/ Craig H. Garrison
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

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1999 Volkswagon Beetle
STOCK # XM464684
$6,995.00*

2006 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 6L023683
$13,995.00*

2003 Kia Sorento LX
STOCK # 35176610
$9,995.00

1999 Toyota 4Runner 4x4
STOCK # X0221184
$9,995.00*

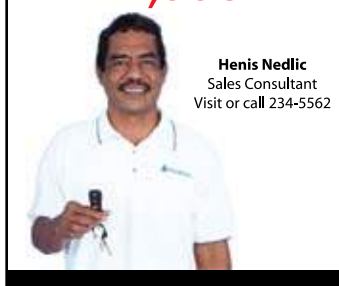
2004 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 4H606499
$12,995.00*

2005 Ford Mustang
STOCK # 55105436
$23,995.00

2005 Ford Ranger
STOCK # 5PA78255
$12,995.00*

2005 Honda Accord EX
STOCK # 5A068921
$18,995.00*

2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C702102
$21,995.00*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Letters to the Editor

Eligibility requirements

Mr. Harry Blalock's "Food for Thought" last weekend presented an interesting perspective and analysis surrounding the eligibility of Mr. Juan T. Lizama and the 180-day CNMI Constitutional provision that may affect his candidacy.

From the facts that were presented, I offer these findings:

First, the position of U.S. delegate is a "federal position" created by a federal provision with the recent passage of federal control of our local labor and immigration, which takes effect in May 2009.

Second, the qualifications for U.S. delegate are governed and created by the U.S. Constitution, not the CNMI Constitution. Under the U.S. delegate guidelines, *all candidates are subject to the "age, citizenship, and residency requirements."*

With this in mind, the U.S. Constitution is the ultimate authority which establishes qualifications and upon which states cannot impose any additional qualifications through either its statutes or constitution. Hence, the 180-day CNMI constitutional provision is *unconstitutional*.

Another interesting perspective is if we ignore the underlying facts that I mentioned and go with the 180-day CNMI constitutional provision. First, the U.S. delegate position was created as a result of President Bush signing the law in May 2008 and creating a "special election" for this historic position. From the enactment of the law in May 2008 and up until the election in November 2008, it would be virtually impossible for Mr. Juan T. Lizama to have "reasonable time" or to "reasonably comply" with the constitutional provision since it will leave him with exactly six months to comply with the law.

The underlying fact is that if there are any suitable challenges concerning Mr. Juan T. Lizama's eligibility, then I believe that any person or persons should bring forth a suit before the federal court so that the matter can be resolved once and for all.

"Rightful liberty is obstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by equal rights of others. I do not add 'within the limits of law,' because law is often but a tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of individual."— Thomas Jefferson

Danny Aquino Jr.
Susupe, Saipan

A modest proposal

Dear Governor Fitial,

Hafa Adai! I have a huge favor to ask of you. Since you just issued an executive order allowing CUC to borrow up to $5 million without first obtaining legislative consent, could I kindly request that I be allowed to rack up a line of credit at CUC for a mere $50,000 for my business? I believe your administration allowed a certain company to rack up more than $600,000 in CUC debt. Can't I do the same? It's only $50,000, which is a tithing of what DCM and CISCO were paid, and we all know what an outstanding job they did for CUC! Please contact your director, Mr. Tony Muna, and ask if this would be possible. I tried calling CUC but for some odd reason the phone is always busy!

On a side note, I hear you are working hard to take over the Commonwealth Development Authority. Good for you! You did an outstanding job with MPLA! My goodness, look at all those arrests from all that alleged corruption you spoke so much about a couple of years back. Outstanding job! Errr, what's that? No arrests? No prosecution? The Attorney General hasn't done anything yet? They can't prosecute because the statute of limitations in the CNMI Criminal Code has already been exceeded? Huh? Oops, scratch that. Let me think of another agency you took over. I know! How about CUC? You've done an outstanding job with CUC! Thanks to the fact that we have the highest power rates in the modern world and of course our never-ending power outages, I get to know firsthand how cavemen and our ancestors lived! Biba "Back to the Basics!" Power is overrated! We don't need it!

Governor, one last request: Before you take over CDA, could you wait a month or two? I want to get a loan with them, and then you can take it over. Perhaps, once you take it over, you could wipe out all of our CDA debts, kind of like how CPA wants CDA to wipe out their $6 million loan? We can all pretend it never existed! I have a good imagination, and apparently so do you!

Keep up the good work and let me know how the lawsuit against the evil federal government is going, and tell Mr. Jenner and Mr. Block I said hello. We need to take down the Great Satan! I applaud you for staying the course, and can honestly tell you that your approval ratings are soaring and the people of the CNMI applaud you! Biba Better Times!

Your number one fan,
Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

No justice, no peace

To Timothy Bellas:

My sister-in-law, Shumei Li, is still waiting for her $575 check from the garment settlement. Why is that, Mr. Bellas? Do you think ignoring my calls or turning away people will make you look good in the public? Mr. Bellas, my sister-in-law needs the money for her kidney operation! She is asking me for help to get her check at a time when I myself am undergoing my own medical treatment here in Portland. It's bad enough that I gave up my share in the $90,000 that my mom got out of the $4.7 million in the Rita Kaipat estate. Now you're going to deny my sister-in-law in China her chance to move forward with her kidney operation? Please take action like a man of justice and peace.

Joaquin Romolor
Portland, Oregon

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
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JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: August 1, 2008 Closing date: August 14, 2008

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies for Saipan:

1-Accountant-Ill
8-Ports Police Trainees
5-ARFF Trainees (Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighters)
2-Ground Maintenance-I

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp.

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Pre-qualified applicants for the Ports Police and ARFF Trainee vacancies must undergo and pass the physical fitness test as prerequisite for interview and selection process. Only selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., August 14, 2008.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

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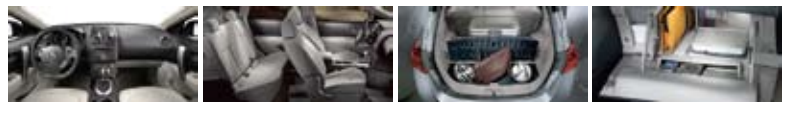

2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
~~F-150~~	~~#6NB057~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$21,990.00~~

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
~~Sorento~~	~~#6569698~~ SOLD	~~Green~~	~~$18,995.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Fit	#7S031086	Silver	$14,995.00
~~Fit Sport~~	~~#7S03110~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,495.00~~
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

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50 million children lived with married parents in 2007

In an expanded look at the structure of the American family, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that in 2007, 50 million children in the United States lived with married parents and 2.2 million children lived with two unmarried parents.

According to the "Families and Living Arrangements" section of the report, some 73.7 million children younger than 18 lived in the United States. Of these, 67.8 percent lived with married parents, 2.9 percent lived with two unmarried parents, 25.8 percent lived with one parent and 3.5 percent lived with no parent present.

The data come from the 2007 Current Population Survey. The survey, which has been continuously conducted since 1940, has been expanded to allow tabulation about unmarried partner couples and their children. Before 2007, a child living with two unmarried parents was tabulated as a child living with a single parent.

Four out of 10, or approximately 2.5 million opposite-sex unmarried couples, lived with at least one biological child of either partner. In contrast, 26.8 million out of 60.7 million married couple families had children living at home.

Among the findings about the 2.2 million children living with two unmarried parents were:

■ Forty-two percent were younger than 3, compared with 17 percent of children younger than 3 who lived with married parents.

■ Almost half of these children (47 percent) were white, non-Hispanic, compared with nearly two-thirds of children (64 percent) living with two married parents.

■ Thirty percent of these children were Hispanic, compared with 20 percent of children living with their married parents.

■ Fifteen percent of these children were black, compared with 8 percent of children living with their married parents.

■ Twelve percent of these children had at least one parent with a bachelor's degree or higher. By comparison, 45 percent of children living with married parents had at least one parent with a bachelor's degree or higher.

■ Fifty-six percent of these children had both parents in the labor force, while 63 percent of children with married parents had both parents in the labor force.

■ About three in five (57 percent) of children living with unmarried parents were in rental units, compared with about one in five (21 percent) children living with their married parents.

Of the 2.5 million unmarried couples living with at least one biological child of either partner:

■ One-quarter of these had at least one Hispanic partner, compared with one-fifth of married couples with children.

■ Less than 10 percent of men or women in such couples had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 35 percent of men and 36 percent of women who were married with children.

■ Twenty percent of these couples had partners earning within $5,000 of each other, compared with 11 percent of married couples with children.

For more information on the changes made in 2007 to the families and households data collection in the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement, a working paper is available at http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps08/twps08.pdf.

This survey was conducted in February, March and April for a nationwide sample of about 100,000 addresses. ***(U.S. Census Bureau)***

August at Hyatt Regency Saipan

Giovanni's Birthday Bash

Giovanni's turns teen! Join us in celebrating your favorite restaurant's 13th Birthday as it embarks on its teenage journey.

Friday, August 29th
6:00pm - 9:00pm
$40.00 per person for non-CATH members
$35.00 per person for Club at the Hyatt members

"Fiesta de Ferragosto" at Giovanni's

Enjoy an exquisite selection of Italian summer fare, featuring abundant natural offerings from various regions of Italy.

"Fiesta de Ferragosto" menu selections are available from August 11th till 31st
6:00pm - 10:00pm

*Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

"Seasons Bounty" at Teppanyaki

Relish the "Seasons Bounty" set menu with the art of live cooking at Teppanyaki created by Chef Joe and his team.

"Seasons Bounty" set menu is available from August 11th till 31st
6:00pm - 10:00pm
$95.00 per person*

*Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

"Flavours from Bali" in Kili Cafe and Terrace

Tingle your taste buds with a specially created menu, where creative culinary sensations embody the spirit of exotic Balinese flavours.

"Flavours from Bali" dinner buffet is available from August 16th till 23rd
6:00pm - 10:00pm
$33.00 per person*

*Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

"Weekend Dinner Buffets" in Miyako

Great news for lovers of Miyako's delicacies! Starting August 8th till end of September you may enjoy the great spread of Dinner Buffet on Fridays and Sundays in addition to its ever so popular Saturday Dinner Buffet.

Starts on August 8th till end of September
Available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
6:00pm - 10:00pm
$33.00 per person

*Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

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LDS women donate quilts to dialysis center

In September 2007, the young women of the Saipan branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were looking for a humanitarian project. It is tradition of the LDS people to serve within the community, and this begins with the youth.

The near completion of the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis was an inspiration. As an important component of keeping the area germ-free, the hemodialysis centers are often kept very cold. The low temperature, however, can be difficult for the patients.

In an effort to thank the nurses and doctors of the dialysis center for their hard work and devotion, and to add to the comfort of the dialysis patients, the project of making and donating lap quilts to the center was decided on. These quilts are being donated to the center for patients' use; however they will remain at the center, available for everyone.

In conjunction with an LDS Relief Society (the women's organization) in Salt Lake City, Utah, specifically the Mill Creek Ward, 25 lap quilts were tied and bound. The material for the quilts was purchased here on island. All of the quilts reflect an island theme; each made from a different aloha fabric. The material was then sent to Salt Lake City where the women and young women of the Mill Creek Ward hand tied the quilts. Once tied, the unfinished quilts were sent back to Saipan where the young women here sewed on donation labels and bound the edges.

The finished product is a tremendous collaboration of two groups of women separated by the Pacific Ocean.

The connection to the Mill Creek Ward is Jac Wilde Pate, a former female missionary who served on Saipan from 1996 to 1997. Saipan holds a special place in her heart, so when she was approached about the possibility of working together to benefit the people of Saipan, she was thrilled.

The LDS Young Women hope the people of the Commonwealth who have to frequent the hemodialysis center will enjoy the quilts. ***(PR)***

Cassandra Nelson, second from right, and other young women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints pose with Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration Joe Santos, right, and hospital staff during the turnover of the 25 lap quilts to the hospital.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

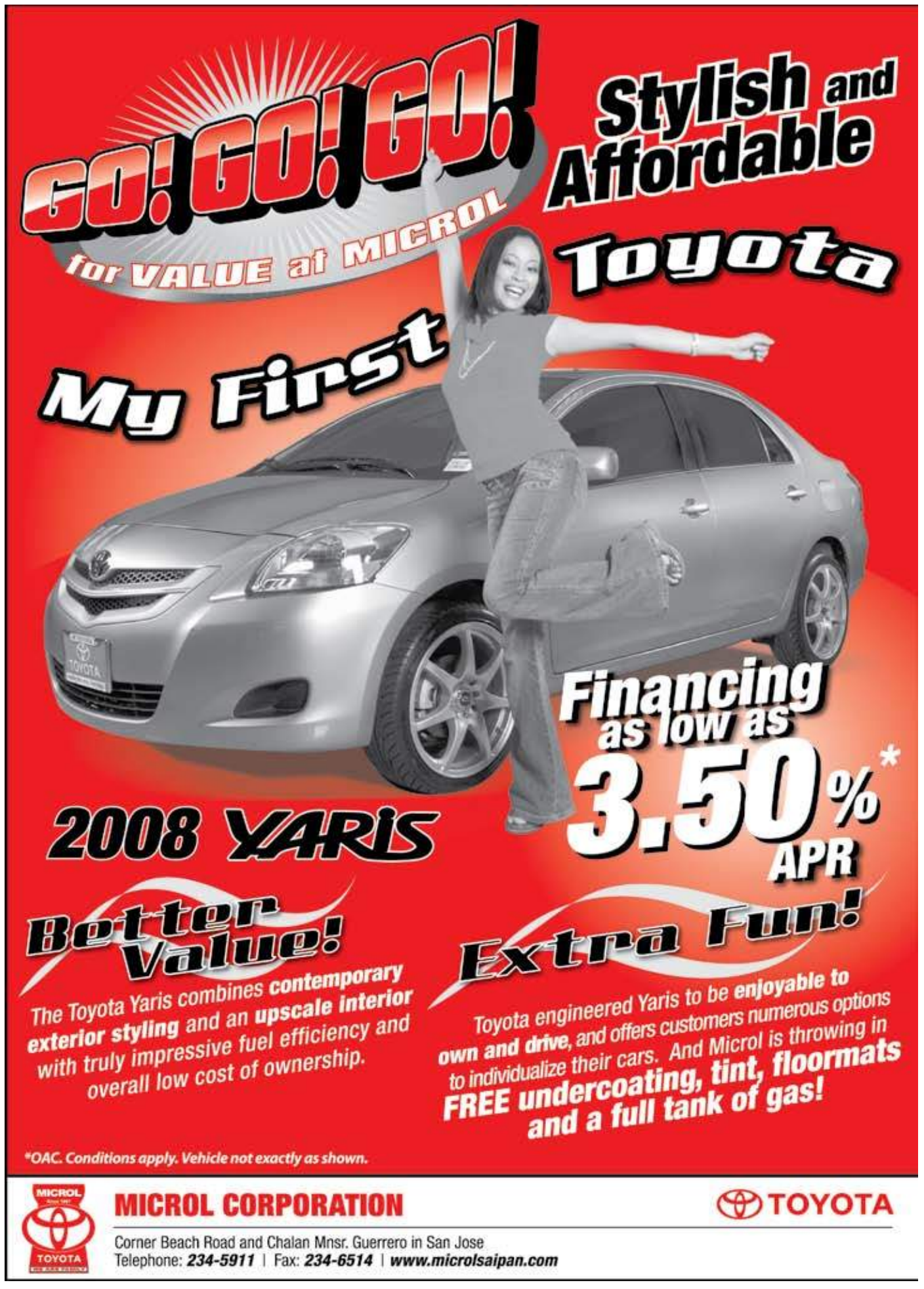
NMC to offer NCLEX classes

The Northern Marianas College will offer a preparatory class for the National Council Licensure Examination. The course is sponsored by NMC's Area Health Education Center.

Candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. mainland must pass the NCLEX to become licensed nurses.

The NCLEX classes will begin on Aug. 11, 2008. Those interested in enrolling in the class must register on or before Aug. 5, 2008 by contacting the AHEC Office at 234-5498, ext. 1010 or 1019.

For more information, contact David Apatang at the same number or stop by the Community Development Institute Office in Building P at NMC's As Terlaje Campus. ***(PR)***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Reward offered for info on sea turtle poaching

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement is offering up to $1,000 for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of persons poaching endangered sea turtles in the territory of Guam and in the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands.

Turtle poaching is an ongoing problem in the Guam area. In recent months, NOAA Special Agents have investigated cases involving the sale and consumption of meat and eggs of protected sea turtles.

Turtle experts believe that turtle poaching is a significant contributing factor to the reduction of indigenous sea turtle populations around the Pacific islands.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 protects all six species of sea turtles in the United States. Endangered species include the indigenous Green Sea Turtle and the Hawksbill Sea Turtle, which are commonly found in and around Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands. Under the ESA and its corresponding regulations, it is illegal to take, possess, sell, deliver, receive, import, export, carry, transport, or ship any endangered species. A violation of the Endangered Species Act can result in civil penalties of up to $25,000, and criminal fines of up to $100,000 and imprisonment up to one year.

Anyone with information is asked to call one of the following numbers:

■ Special Agent Charles Raterman (Guam) 671-472-7200; e-mail at charles.raterman@noaa.gov

■ Pacific Islands Division (Honolulu, HI) 808-541-2727

■ Office for Law Enforcement-National Hotline: 800-853-1964

■ Guam Customs & Quarantine Service - MITF: 671-475-6331

■ Guam Division of Aquatics and Wildlife – DAWR: 671-735-3991

■ US Fish & Wildlife Service - Guam 671-647-6064

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ON THE WEB

NOAA Fisheries in Alaska: **www.fakr.noaa.gov**
NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center: **www.afsc.noaa.gov**
NOAA Fisheries Service's Office for Law Enforcement: **www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole**
NOAA Fisheries Service: **www.nmfs.noaa.gov**

Water outage in some villages tomorrow

The villages of Kannat Tabla, Fina Sisu, As Terlaje, Chalan Kiya and Chalan Laulau will experience water outages tomorrow, Aug. 2, 2008 from 7:30am to 5:00pm. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., through its contractor, AIC Marianas, will replace two 14-inch mainline valves on the main transmission pipeline from the Isley Booster One pumping station to the new one million-gallon Kannat Tabla reservoir. Completion of the replacement work will allow for better water flow and control into the Kannat Tabla reservoir.

The tentative outage schedule for August 2 in the affected areas is as follows:
Kannat Table: 4am to 7:30am
Fina Sisu: am to 7:30am
As Terlaje, NMC: 5am to 7:30am
Chalan Kiya: No water
Chalan Laulau 5pm to 9pm

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation. Rainwater catchment systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow. ***(PR)***

Rota gets $100,000 funding

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday signed into law a bill appropriating over $100,000 for various projects and programs on Rota.

The appropriated funds come from Rota's local license fees for pachinko slot machines and poker machines.

The funds are appropriated as follows: $10,000 to the Rota Little League for sports equipment; $10,000 to the Rota Little League to host the 2008 Little League Tournament in Rota; $10,000 for youth and vocational programs; $25,000 for the Rota medical guest house and other projects; $5,000 for assessment and architectural design for improvements at Rota's Bird Sanctuary; $22,000 for the operations of the Rota Legislative Delegation; and $20,000 for the operations of the Rota Gaming Commission.

Fitial, in a message to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Rota Legislative Delegation Chairman Victor B. Hocog, said the Department of Finance has confirmed the availability of funds for the appropriation. He said he signed the bill "to accommodate the needs of the people of the First Senatorial District."

Each senatorial district charges local poker fees, amounting to $6,000 per machine on Saipan and $4,000 on Rota and Tinian. In addition to the local license fees, the CNMI government imposes a $6,000 fee for each poker machine operated in the Commonwealth. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

INVITATION T0 BIDS

WATER TASK FORCE
ITB08-GOV-078

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the REHABILITATION OF ISLEY WATER RESERVOIR in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- General cleaning of the interior of the tank, including removal of all accumulated sediments on the floor of the tank. Sediments to be disposed of at an approved location such as the Marpi Sanitary Landfill.
- General cleaning of the tank's exposed exterior, including the removal of all plant growth on the roof, water blasting of the tank's exposed exterior and removal of all debris.
- Interior and exterior painting including the demolition and removal of existing appurtenances and accessories, and the installation of new accessories as specified in the Construction Documents, including interior and exterior manhole rungs, drying of the interior of the tank, patching cracks and crevices and water blasting where required for a clean surface. The tank floor may require patching of concrete.
- Painting the interior and exterior surfaces where indicated. The specifications Section 07110 for the exterior coating and Section 09900 for the interior coating, specify a particular painting product and paint system, but the specifications allow the contractor to bid am "or equal", paint system. The paint system bid must be an integrated system whereby the manufacturer certifies and warranties the product for a minimum of ten years. The painting system shall be compatible with the surface preparation products and be acceptable by the US EPA for use in a potable water reservoir.
- Periodic inspections, verification of paint thicknesses and leak testing as well as the final clean-up shall be considered a part of the total performance. All records shall be turned over to the Water Task Force Program Manager upon completion and acceptance of the work.

A non-refundable payment of $150 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **July 21, 2008** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **August 5, 2008**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing, addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, and received no later than 4:30 PM on **August 4**, 2008.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB08-GOV-078"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **August 19, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **August 19, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 19, 2008**, and must be received no later than **August 28, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 pm local time, **August 29, 2008.** However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 pm local time on **August 20, 2008**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **Timothy P. Villagomez,**
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement and Supply

Mount Carmel School

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Mount Carmel School announces the following important dates:

August 4 **Parent Orientation***
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
High School Building

August 5 **Parent Orientation***
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
High School Building

Parents need attend only one orientation session.

August 07 **First Day of Classes**
7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
7:30 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.
(Wednesday)

Opening Day Mass: 8:00 a.m. at the Cathedral

August 13 **Open House**
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Not yet enrolled? Some slots are still available. Stop by to pick up an application.

For more information, call 234-6184.

/s/ Margaret C. DelaCruz
President, Mount Carmel School

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Happy Time Cookies 1.5 kg. **$5.99/ea.**

Teptip Coconut Milk 13.5 oz. **70¢/ea.**

Capri Sun Cooler T.Punch 10 ct. **$2.95/ea.**

Capri Sun Cooler Berry 10 ct. **$2.95/ea.**

Tang Orange Juice 22QRTS 32 oz. **$6.79/ea.**

Datu Puti Vinegar 1L. (Red)	85¢/ea.
Heinz Vinegar Cider Gal.	$6.19/ea.
Louana Oil Peanut Gal.	$15.09/ea.

FROZEN

Chicken Stewing **$1.19/lb.**

Chicken Wingettes IQF 5# **$9.99/pk.**

Imitation Crab Meat 1# **$2.09/lb.**

Bar S Frank Jumbo 16 oz. **$1.15/ea.**

Fish, Tilapia **$1.25/lb.**

Beef Corned Brisket US	$1.99/lb.
Beef Feet Skin-On US	$1.19/lb.
Turkey Drumstick	99¢/lb.
Quail Family Pack 28oz.	$9.50/lb.
Seafood Mixed 1lb.	$2.25/lb.
Scallops (20/30)	$9.50/lb.
Octopus, Baby Cooked	$4.99/lb.

NON-FOOD

Soft'N Gentle Toilet Tissue 12 ct. **$4.99/ea.**

Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. **$6.99/ea.**

Platinum Napkin 360 ct. **$3.99/ea.**

PRODUCE

Potato, Russet US	89¢/lb.
Onion, Yellow US	49¢/lb.
Cabbage, Green US	79¢/lb.
Garlic, Netted US	$1.27/lb.
Cellery Sleeved	$1.27/lb.
Bell Pepper, Green US	$1.81/lb.
Orange Choice US	91¢/lb.
Apple, Fuji US	$1.81/lb.
Peanut US	$2.03/lb.

JAPAN FOOD

Marukiyo's Rice Crackers 50g. Japan **81¢/ea.**

Marukiyo's Rice Crackers 100/50g. Japan **$81.00/tin**

Inirizushi (Fried Been Curd) 950G	$6.80/ea.
Takeya Miso Tokujyo 500G Japan	$2.80/ea.
Kadoya Sesame Oil 5.5 oz.	$1.85/ea.
Yours Lemon Powder 150G Japan	$4.59/ea.
S&B Wasabi Powder 200G Japan	$5.59/ea.
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Zyunmai Karoyaka 2 Liter (Sake)	$16.29/ea.
Gekk. Hon Jyunmai 750ml. (Sake)	$12.68/ea.
Sanwa lichiko 20 900ml. (Sochu)	$11.19/ea.
Japan Sochu 750ml. (Sochu)	$9.19/ea.
Bizan Gold 750ml. (Sochu)	$12.59/ea.

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Pacific

TENTH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS

Contemporary art part of cultural identity

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Participants in a symposium on youth and contemporary art at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa discussed the role of contemporary art in cultural identity.

As contemporary art gains more and more ground in the Pacific region, some people are concerned that the value and authenticity of cultural identity will diminish.

"Not so," says Allan Alo, a Samoan choreographer and artistic director of the Oceania Dance Center, a contemporary dance group based in Fiji.

On the contrary, contemporary art takes people back to their identity and culture as the creation of contemporary art forms involves delving into one's traditional past he says. "To dance contemporary dance, you need to explore your culture and discover your identity."

Speaking at the symposium, Alo said the depth of contemporary art in the Pacific was often underestimated. "There is more to contemporary art than pure entertainment. It is a tool for communicating powerful messages about social behavior and global challenges," he says.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Contemporary dancers from Fiji at the festival.

Many Pacific Island countries and territories present at the festival are displaying different forms of contemporary art as well as more traditional art forms.

Fiji's Sailasa Tora, who specializes in traditional Fijian chants known as *vucu*, says as culture has evolved in the Pacific, musicians have created their own distinctive contemporary Pacific styles. He says each artist has their own unique genetic fingerprint and no matter what art style they produce, the essence of their art remains the same.

"It's the individual musician who's important. Even though they may use modern instruments, the celebration of [their identity] comes through the microphone and modern instruments."

Well-known contemporary bands from around the Pacific including Fiji's Black Rose, American Samoa's Siliva Brothers, PNG's Freelance, Island Fire from Western Samoa and Sharzy from Solomon Islands, have been popular crowd-pullers at the festival.

The festival's *Jam House* is one of the main venues for bands and is a popular meeting place for young people.

Merita Leleua, *Jam House* manager, says the Pacific Island bands that are performing at the festival show the depth of musical talent in the Pacific.

"The common thing that we Pacific people share is music, both traditional and contemporary, and I believe that without both, this festival wouldn't be complete," she says. ***(SPC)***

'Noise drowning out sea creatures'

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Rawiri Paratene, who starred in the award-winning New Zealand film, *Whale Rider*, says Pacific islanders need to help protect sea creatures from the invasive noise generated by humans.

Paratene won fame for his role as the grandfather in the 2002 film directed by Niki Caro.

"We go to the seaside because we think it's a place of tranquility. But the reality is that the oceans are in trouble," he says.

Paratene is publicizing his latest film project on ocean noise pollution and its impact on sea creatures at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa.

He says the ancestors of Pacific islanders knew that sea creatures use sound to navigate and locate food and mates, as well as to communicate with each other. He recalls going to the sea as a child with his grandmother and other female elders to gather shellfish at low tide.

"We were taught to move about quietly so as not to upset Tangaroa (Maori god of the sea). Other times, we would be encouraged to beat the water with sticks and deliberately make a ruckus so the fish would become confused and be easily herded into our waiting nets."

It has long been understood in the Pacific that noise moves further and faster through water than air, Paratene says. "During our ancestors' times, the ocean was free of noise pollution and communication lines were clear."

He said this knowledge was important to ancestral navigators because the migratory patterns of whales offered indicators or signposts on the ocean's highways.

The three main contributors to noise pollution are shipping traffic, seismic exploration for oil and minerals under the sea, and military use of sonar, he says.

In the last 50 years, the noise from shipping traffic has become so loud that it masks natural sounds. Such noise could cause sea animals such as whales and dolphins to move to quieter places.

Until now the problem has been concentrated around Europe, America and parts of Asia. However, with the emergence of economic powers such as China and India, shipping traffic across the Pacific is increasing at an alarming rate, he says.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maori actor Rawiri Paratene at the festival in American Samoa.

Worse than the shipping noise, is noise caused by seismic detonations. "With terrestrial mineral and oil deposits running low, people are turning to the ocean and using seismic blasts, which are deafening. They block out all other ocean noise including shipping noise."

The actor says he first became interested in the issue when he heard about RIMPAC military exercises in Hawaii. The navies of the United States and its allies from Pacific Rim countries get together every two years for RIMPAC, which is the world's largest international maritime exercise.

"The navy's use of sonar to detect enemy submarines has been linked to mass strandings of whales. The symptoms are unmistakable—several different species stranded over wide areas with bleeding eyes and brain hemorrhaging."

Paratene says the people of Oceania must take action as they are the guardians of the Pacific. "A united Pacific voice is a voice that cannot be denied." ***(SPC)***

USCG admiral, Cook Islands minister sign bilateral accord

APIA, Samoa—Cook Islands Foreign Minister Wilkie Rasmussmen and Rear Adm. Manson K. Brown, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's Fourteenth District headquartered in Honolulu, signed an agreement July 25 that improves law enforcement capabilities in the Cook Islands exclusive economic zone, or EEZ.

The bilateral agreement means Cook Islands law enforcement personnel may ride U.S. Coast Guard vessels in order to conduct law enforcement missions within the Cook Islands EEZ.

U.S. Coast Guard cutters based in Honolulu and Guam frequently transit through EEZs of Pacific Islands nations and Brown's Fourteenth District encompasses the largest geographic area of responsibility in the U.S. Coast Guard. The new agreement is similar to bilateral ship rider agreements already in place between the U.S. and Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The goal of these bilateral agreements, said both Rasmussen and Brown, is to build capacity and strengthen interoperability among Pacific Island countries. As the threat of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing increases in the vast Pacific region, multilateral cooperation is essential to maintaining sustainable fishery stocks and combating transnational crime, they say.

Ship rider agreements mean law enforcement agents from that country may use U.S. Coast Guard ships as platforms from which to conduct boardings of commercial vessels found in Pacific Island nations' EEZs. This enables Pacific Island countries without robust coast guard or naval assets to perform critical law enforcement missions and fisheries patrols.

Brown's Fourteenth District has led a U.S. effort toward fostering and improving maritime security cooperation in the Pacific by instituting the "Ship Rider Program" last year. Brown represented the U.S. during the signing.

"Our strategic intent is to strengthen cooperation with Pacific Island partners in order to build a maritime security network in the Pacific," said Brown, whose Fourteenth District encompasses 12.2 million square miles of the Pacific and includes nine separate U.S. EEZs. "Bilateral ship rider agreements are an important step in realizing that goal."

Foreign Minister Rasmussen and Rear Admiral Brown were in Samoa to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the foreign ministers of 16 Pacific Island countries to discuss maritime security cooperation and other common issues in the Pacific Region.

In the past year alone, U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement personnel from Brown's Fourteenth District have conducted joint operations with several different Pacific Island countries, including Palau, FSM, RMI, Kiribati and the Cook Islands. ***(PR)***

CAROLYN RIDDERMAN

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Manson K. Brown and Wilkie Rasmussmen, Cook Islands Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed a bilateral shiprider agreement in Samoa on July 25, 2008.

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Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $7.99

Ocean Best Crabmeat Imitation 1 lb. $2.29

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. $1.99

Golden State Vinegar 1 Gal. $2.79

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 oz. 99¢

Ground Beef 5 LBS. $8.99 10 LBS. $16.95

Pike Mackarel Family Bag $5.95

Mackarel Family Bag $5.95

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. 99¢

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Ace of Diamonds Tuna LIMIT 12 Cans 99¢

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Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95

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Hormel Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 59¢

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.79

Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.39

Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.05

Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $15.99

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Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears) 1 Gal. $6.99

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Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99

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Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. $2.59

Sugar 2 kg. $1.69

Maseca Corn Flour 4.4 lbs. $3.59

Platinum Napkin 360 cnts. $3.99

Tilapia $1.19

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $2.39

Chicken Wings 5.5 lbs. $10.99

Ichiban Limit 2 CASES $7.99/CASE

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 59¢

Foam Plates 125 ct. $5.99

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Candle Plain White Only $12.95/CASE

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Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case $20.99/CASE

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $5.99

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Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99

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Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Pepsi Regular Warm Only $13.99/CASE

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GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (200 OZ.) ORIGINAL ONLY	$11.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00

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BEEF SHANK	$10.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95
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BEEF STEW	$12.95
RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
PORK BUTT	$10.95

Budweiser / Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $24.99

Chamorro Punch 1 Gal. $8.99

Island Snapshots

SANPO-EN
Buddhist priest Kayaki Kansho leads the offering of incense and prayers for World War II victims during the 30th Anniversary of Sanpo-en memorial service at the Sanpo-en Peace Monument at Banzai Cliff in Marpi Wednesday. With Kansho are 30 Japanese students from Osaka, Kyushu, Nagano and Tokyo who are part of the annual cultural exchange summer program, along with 12 chaperones.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

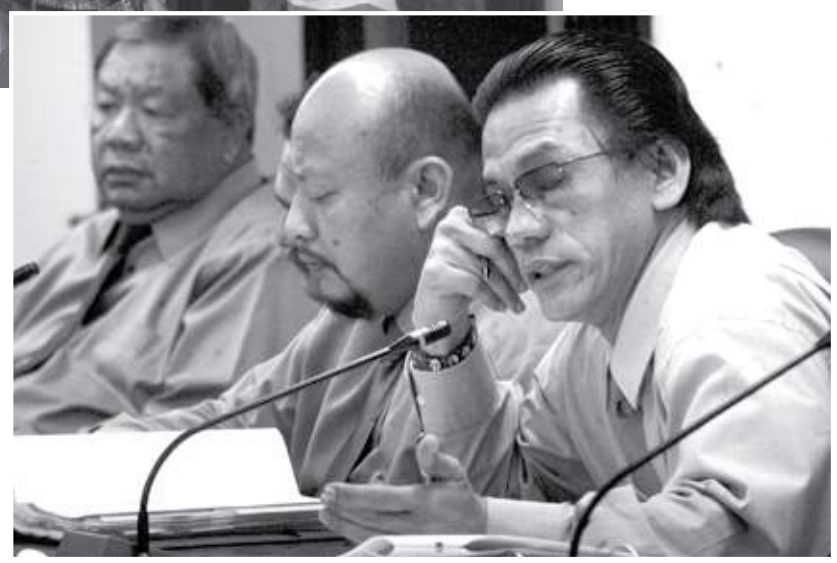
Buddhist priest Kayaki Kansho and 30 Japanese students from Osaka, Kyushu, Nagano and Tokyo who are part of the annual cultural exchange summer program pose for a group photo with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela during the Sanpo-en group's courtesy visit at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill Wednesday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Buddhist priest Kayaki Kansho and 12 chaperones pose for a group photo with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela during the Sanpo-en group's courtesy visit at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill Wednesday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ISLAND VISITOR
Human rights advocate Wendy L. Doromal delivers her remarks while hundreds of non-resident workers listen during a welcome party hosted by the Human Dignity Movement for Doromal and her daughter Nani at Garapan Central Park Saturday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

$10,000 RICHER
Juliet Reyes receives this year's Las Vegas grand prize worth $10,000 during the weekly Rotary Club meeting Tuesday. With her are some Rotary club members.
JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

LABOR TRANSFER
People seeking transfer relief crowd at the Labor Hearing Office to pick up documents July 23.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE



HOUSE SESSION
Rep. Raymond D. Palacios gestures as he speaks during a session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Wednesday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WIA TRAINEES
Summer youth trainees from the Workforce Investment Agency finish their internship at the Saipan World Resort, which lasted from June 16 to July 25, 2008. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources manager, is the coordinator for this year's Summer Youth Program. Trainees were assigned to Accounting, Human Resources, Food & Beverages (waiter and waitress), Water Park (lifeguards), La Mer (masseuse) and Front Office (bellhop). The trainees were provided information and tools to be knowledgeable of the Resort's mission and primary functions. The training is part of Saipan World Resort's effort in promoting the local workforce.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Oil jumps over $4 on surprise drop in gas supplies

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices soared over $4 a barrel Wednesday, halting a dramatic two-week slide after a surprise drop in U.S. gasoline supplies fed speculation that record fuel prices aren't keeping Americans off the roads.

But energy market analysts offered mixed views on whether prices would swing back toward record levels above $147 a barrel hit earlier this month or if Wednesday's big rally was just a temporary bump.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery jumped $4.58 cents to settle at $126.77 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after earlier rising as high as $127.39. It was crude's biggest one-day rally since July 10, when prices ended $5.60 higher. Oil closed $2.54 lower on Tuesday at $122.19 a barrel.

The Energy Information Administration said in its weekly inventory report that U.S. gasoline supplies fell by 3.5 million barrels last week. Analysts surveyed by energy research firm Platts expected gas supplies to increase by 400,000 barrels. U.S. crude stockpiles also fell by 100,000 barrels last week, less than the 1.3 million barrels analysts had predicted.

The report gave some traders reasons to believe that crude's slide was overblown and that the drop in gas supplies mean prices have fallen enough to nudge Americans back onto the roads.

"It's stopping the bearish momentum that we've seen over the last few days," Phil Flynn, analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago, said of the surprise decline in gas supplies.

Nations grapple with WTO talks failure

GENEVA (AP)—The United States, Europe and other commercial powers grappled Wednesday with the magnitude of their failure to reach a new global trade pact, and traded blame for the collapse of seven years of talks.

A day after a nine-day World Trade Organization summit ended without agreement, Peter Mandelson, the European Union's top negotiator, said he had tried to broker a deal on the farm import issue that ultimately divided the United States and developing countries led by China and India.

While both sides rejected the compromise, Mandelson reserved his sharpest criticism for U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, accusing her of refusing to budge even when her demands were met and then going public with her grievances too quickly.

"It is bad enough to be facing defeat in the last mile of such a marathon," Mandelson wrote Wednesday in his blog. "It's worse to realize that some of the people across the table, instead of working for success, are in reality preparing for failure."

The U.S. rejected his description of events behind closed doors at the WTO's Geneva headquarters. Gretchen Hamel, a spokeswoman for Schwab, noted that the EU's renegotiating was rejected by multiple countries, and was aimed to "deflect attention from the EU's own domestic concerns."

These would include Europe's own defensiveness to opening up farm markets to imports of beef, poultry, sugar and other products. Agricultural imports are especially sensitive in France, where President Nicolas Sarkozy has regularly pointed the finger at Mandelson for conceding too much to competitors in the developing world.

Mandelson's criticism of the U.S. comes after weeks of close cooperation between the trans-Atlantic partners. Over the weekend, he told trade ministers from the EU's 27 member countries that he and Schwab were "joining up, but not ganging up" to push the negotiations forward.

Bush OKs mortgage relief bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush signed a housing bill Wednesday intended to rescue about 15 percent of the cash-strapped homeowners in fear of foreclosure in the next year or so.

Early in the morning and out of public view, the president signed it without fanfare in the Oval Office, adding his signature to a measure he once threatened to veto. The White House said he was accompanied by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Steve Preston and other administration officials.

"We look forward to put in place new authorities to improve confidence and stability in markets," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said. He said the Federal Housing Administration would begin to put in place new policies "intended to keep more deserving American families in their homes."

The legislation is regarded as the most significant housing bill in decades. It won approval from lawmakers eager, in an election year, to come up with an answer to the growing housing crisis.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

House passes bill to regulate tobacco

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed legislation that for the first time would subject the tobacco industry to regulation by federal health authorities charged with promoting public well-being. Its backers call the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act "landmark" legislation. While the bill appears to have enough support to pass this year, it's unclear whether the Senate will have time to act, and the Bush administration issued a veto threat Wednesday. The 326-102 House vote signaled solid bipartisan support for the measure, with 96 Republicans breaking with President Bush's position to vote in favor of the bill.

Stocks surge higher, led by financial sector

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street soared for the second straight day Wednesday, rallying in the last hour of trading after a rebound in financial stocks and optimism about private sector jobs. The Dow rose 186.13, or 1.63 percent, to 11,583.69. On Tuesday, the blue chips jumped 266 points, more than wiping out a nearly 240-point loss from the previous session. Broader stock indicators also surged. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 21.06, or 1.67 percent, to 1,284.26, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 10.10, or 0.44 percent, to 2,329.72. The dollar was higher against other major currencies.

Fed takes steps to break through credit clogs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Focused on getting the nation's credit gears smoothly working again, the Federal Reserve is letting Wall Street firms draw emergency loans into next year and giving financial companies more options to help them overcome credit problems. The Fed's announcement on Wednesday marks its latest effort to get credit - the economy's oxygen - flowing more freely. The Fed announced that investment houses can now tap the central bank for a quick source of cash through Jan 30. Originally the program, started on March 17, was supposed to last until mid-September. Another program, where investment firms can temporarily swap more risky investments for super-safe Treasury securities also will continue through Jan. 30, the Fed said.

What is Secondhand Smoke or Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)?

- The smoke that is exhaled from a smoker
- The smoke that rises from the end of a burning cigarette

What does Secondhand Smoke or ETS do?

- Increases the risk of and worsens asthma, earaches, respiratory illnesses, and coughing among children
- Increases the risk of heart disease, all kinds of cancers, diabetes, and other tobacco-related illnesses

What can you do to prevent Secondhand Smoke or ETS?

- If you smoke, TAKE IT OUTSIDE! Refrain from smoking in enclosed spaces, including homes, cars, workplaces, etc.

On August 27, 2008, the 2008 Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Awareness Month Planning Committee will formally recognize all establishments and businesses who have developed and/or implemented smoke-free policies.

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When the reality of the salary dashes hopes for the dream position

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I have been at my private-sector job for four years. Finally, after months of applying, I got an interview in late March at a well-known nonprofit organization. This is my dream place to work. I was offered the position, but the pay cut was too steep, and I don't exactly rake it in now. When the interviewer called in April to offer the job, she prefaced it with, "I know we're going to lose you, but this is what the position is budgeted for," in an apologetic way. I know nonprofit groups aren't known for pay, and I would have taken a small pay cut, but this was too big a decrease. She encouraged me to keep checking the Web site and said she would keep my resume should other positions open up because I was her top choice. She also said, "I hope you keep checking with us, I think you'd fit in very well here."

This was in April. I've checked their job listings weekly, and the position I applied for is still there.

Is it appropriate to check back three to four months later and inquire about the position or just check in with her to stay on the radar? How do you suggest approaching this?

A: Yes, you should absolutely check in. Like, tomorrow. Drop her a friendly e-mail letting her know you are still interested in working there, and ask if there are any current openings for which you would be a good fit.

If the job is still unfilled, the organization may be ready to negotiate on the salary. Its inability to fill the job after all this time should be a wake-up call that the budget for this position needs adjusting to move a little closer to economic reality.

Psychic dividends may be part of the compensation for nonprofit jobs, but mortgage lenders won't accept an envelope filled with warm fuzzies as payment.

■■■

Q: Is it legal for employers to ask employees their full birthdate and age after hiring?

A: Not only is it legal, but it is also a requirement to comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act, said Mary Willoughby, director of human resources for the Center for Disability Rights in Rochester, N.Y.

Willoughby, who also serves as an adviser for the Society for Human Resource Management, said after a person is hired, the employer must verify the person's identity and employment eligibility by the end of the third day of employment. The I-9, the form that serves this purpose, requires the person to provide his or her date of birth.

She noted a few exceptions to this requirement: people hired before Nov. 7, 1987, independent contractors, and employees who are contracted to a business. (In the latter case, the employment agency or employer of the contractor must have the I-9 on file.)

If the person is an employee of the organization, the employee must provide employers their full birth date for I-9 compliance within the first three days of employment, she said.

Aside from that legal requirement, there are other valid reasons an employer may need to know your birthdate, including benefits administration.

■■■

Q: What do you think of resume-writing services? I've only had one interview, so perhaps (the problem is) my resume. How should one evaluate different companies? They are quite pricey. Are they worth it for entry-level positions?

A: Resume-writing services can be a good investment, even for entry-level jobs. A good one can save you from the most common mistakes, including typos and inappropriate formatting. A professional resume writer can save you from wasting a weekend obsessing over margins and bullet points.

The cost may not be as high as you fear: Many companies use tiered pricing, charging a discounted rate for recent grads and other entry-level workers.

Finding a firm is easy enough. Just use your local phone book or search online. Ask to see samples of resumes they have written for workers in your field and at your experience level. You can also ask to speak to recent clients to find out how their job search went with the professionally written resume.

Finally, if you are a recent graduate, call your college's career services office. Many of them offer free resume consulting and writing services or will refer you to low-cost, reliable firms with which they have made arrangements.

Psychic dividends may be part of the compensation for nonprofit jobs, but mortgage lenders won't accept an envelope filled with warm fuzzies as payment.

Hanging on to jobs

When the going gets tough, the tough should find ways to recession-proof their careers. A new report from Jobfox, an Internet job site, says the best way to do that is to consider today's recession-proof professions.

The site's list of the top 20 hot careers includes:

1. Sales representatives
2. Software designers/developers
3. Nurses
4. Accounting and finance executives
5. Accounting staff

ON THE NET

For the complete Top 20 list go to: http://www.jobfox.com/Site/Employer/pdf/Top-JobsJuly08.pdf

"During this critical period of economic slowdown, these are the professionals who have been least affected by six consecutive months of job losses in the United States," said Rob McGovern, chief executive of Jobfox. ***(Newsday)***

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Avoiding debt for young adults

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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College students often enter adulthood with more than a degree—all too often they enter the adult world saddled with debt. Student loans average $20,000, with credit-card debt reaching nearly $3,000—more than double that for graduate students.

Here's a statistic: Less than a quarter of students polled felt prepared to handle finances after college, and 30 percent of freshmen said they weren't prepared to manage their money. Here's a book to tuck into the backpack: "Please Send Money, A Financial Survival Guide for Young Adults on Their Own," by Dara Duguay (Sourcebooks).

"Please Send Money" opens with a comparison of young adults to ostriches: believing that if you ignore a problem, it will go away. All too often, that's the first step toward leaving school weighed down by debt and going on to a young adulthood of money mismanagement.

The book shows how to break that cycle.

Among other things in the book that young adults need to know:

■ Tax chart showing what take-home salaries really look like after taxes are deducted.

■ A credit-card chart showing how long it takes to pay off a credit card if paying only the minimum each month.

■ Tips on buying a car: buy an inexpensive car, bank the money you didn't spend, and watch it turn into a million dollars; don't buy the first day you're out looking; comparison shop; read the paperwork before you sign; don't accept an adjustable interest rate; and get the cost of insurance before you buy.

■ Credit-card debt in college can impact a future career: Run up debt, take on more hours at work, leaving less time to study and lowering grades, putting scholarships at risk, and possibly leading to dropping out.

■ The real costs of setting up a first home after college—don't forget to calculate the cost of paying back student loans.

■ Marital debt and setting up a budget.

■ The growth of a small investment.

■ Avoiding the path to bankruptcy.

■ Understanding Wall Street.

Parents, if you buy this book for your young adult, read it first before you hand it over. Seventy percent of students polled said they learned money management from their parents. There's something for everyone in this book.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Addressing rumors: Let your work speak for itself

By LILY GARCIA
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A reader writes:

"I work for a PR agency and my main client is a Fortune 500 company. Last week, someone left an anonymous voicemail for me saying that one of the internal PR people at my client was spreading "vicious and hurtful" rumors about me and my company. The person who was named regularly trashes her company to reporters and tells them she hates her job, so it's quite conceivable that she's also saying unprofessional things about me. Do you have any advice on if I should let this go, confront the person at my client, or inform her supervisors?"

The response:

It is maddening to think that someone out there is smearing your professional reputation. Your instinct, naturally, is to take action to make it stop. But before you do or say a thing, it would be wise to analyze the range of potential outcomes.

Let's suppose that you confront the gossip. If this individual disparages her company and her job to reporters, then it is doubtful that she has much of a sense of shame about her actions. She will either deny what she has been doing or try to minimize and rationalize her actions. The purpose of approaching her is not to embarrass her into stopping, but basically to let her know that you are aware of the problem and leave her wondering what you might be willing to do to correct it.

You should tell her about the anonymous voicemail you received, and tell her that you wanted to let her know about it because you find it so hard to believe that she would ever say such things about you and your company. Then suggest to her that maybe someone took her constructive feedback out of context and ask her if there is something that your company could be doing to better its relationship with the client. Allowing her to save face in this way might help to take some of the wind out of her sails.

Now let's suppose you make an overture to the gossip's supervisors regarding her behavior. Your efforts might be met with gratitude. After all, I am sure your client does not want to be disparaged any more than you. Then again, you might find that your client is in deep denial about this person's behavior or that, although cognizant of the problem, they simply do not appreciate your officious meddling into their personnel matters. Worse still, they might think that you are exaggerating or making things up. Based upon the strength of your relationship with your client and what you know about your client's culture and the personalities of the gossip's supervisors, ask yourself honestly whether your message would be believed and valued.

Also consider what the gossip might do if she receives a reprimand from her supervisors. If you have already talked to her, she is likely to assume that you were the source of the tip, which will only stoke her destructive behavior. Initially, I think that you should talk to the gossip or to her supervisors, but not to both. If you talk to the gossip and she persists in her behavior, only then you should escalate the matter to her supervisors. Meanwhile, don't let this become too much of a distraction from your work. The best way to safeguard your reputation with your client is to do a good job. Whatever rumors might be circulating about you, your work will ultimately speak for itself.

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

Nation

Obama: McCain thinks US on 'right track'

SPRINGFIELD, Mo (AP)—Democatic presidential contender Barack Obama said Wednesday his Republican rival "thinks we're on the right track," drawing a chorus of boos from a swing state audience vocal about the status quo.

"These anxieties seem to be growing with each passing day," Obama said on a campaign swing in this economically ailing battleground state. "We can either choose a new direction for our economy or we can keep doing what we've been doing. My opponent, John McCain, thinks we're on the right track."

Obama

That elicited boos from some of the 1,500 people who filled a Springfield high school gymnasium. When an AP-Ipsos poll asked the "right track, wrong track" question this month, 77 percent said they thought the country was on the wrong track. The same poll set President Bush's approval rating at 28 percent. Both were records for the AP-Ipsos survey.

"It's true that change is hard, change isn't easy," Obama said. "Nobody here thinks that Bush or McCain has a real answer for the challenges we face so what they're going to try to do is make you scared about me."

Change with difficulty was a core theme Democrat Bill Clinton used when he opposed President George H.W. Bush in 1992, a campaign also fought during tough economic times.

McCain camp compares Obama to Spears, Hilton

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—John McCain's presidential campaign on Wednesday released a withering television ad comparing Barack Obama to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, suggesting the Democratic contender is little more than a vapid but widely recognized media concoction.

McCain

Obama's campaign quickly responded with a commercial of its own, dismissing McCain's complaints as "baloney" and "baseless."

McCain's ad, titled "Celeb" and set to air in 11 battleground states, intercuts images of Obama on his trip to Europe last week with video of twenty-something pop stars Spears and Hilton - both better known for their childish offscreen antics.

"He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?" the voiceover asks, noting the Illinois senator's opposition to offshore oil drilling and suggesting he would raise taxes if elected.

It was the latest effort by the GOP hopeful to cast Obama as a lightweight with little experience in leadership or governing. It also was risky for McCain's campaign to both acknowledge Obama's worldwide fame and depict it as a weakness rather than a strength.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O.Box 502078, Saipan, MP 96950
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg #1336, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Determination of Quorum**
3. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**
4. **Review and Adoption of Minutes (7/1/08)**
5. **Communications from Governor's Office & Legislature**
   A. Governor's Office
   B. Legislature
6. **Chairman's Report**
7. **Executive Director's Report**
8. **Investigator's Report**
9. **Old Business**
   A. Hearing on 8/19/08
10. **New Business**
    A. Proposed Amendment to P.L. 14-95 And the Regulations
12. **Miscellaneous Business**
    A. Director's Position
13. **Executive Session - The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.**
14. **Adjournment of Meeting**

/s/ Francisco Q. Guerrero
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

VICENTE W. KAIPAT and LEONILA S. KAIPAT (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 21, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 10, 1994, under Document No. 94-1199 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Koblerville and hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 330, containing an area of 1,109 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 07, dated September 8, 1982, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 18433, dated September 30, 1983 the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 19, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $116,930.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $116,930.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONSONG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $58,240.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than **August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $58,240.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ELOY T. DELA CRUZ and SHIRLEY ANN R. DELA CRUZ (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 23, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 29, 2002, under Document No. 02-2209 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Kagman and hereafter described:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on February 29, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $85,060.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $85,060.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

HERMAN M. GUERRERO aka Herman M. Deleon Guerrero and Asunta T. Guerrero aka Asunta T. Deleon Guerrero (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 18, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 18, 1983, under Document No. 17740 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in San Vicente and hereafter described:

Tract number 20472-9, and containing an area of 926 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 2064/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 14154, on the 26th day of March, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 11, 2008. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $91,150.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $91,150.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $95,020.00, the total amount due under the USDA, Rural Development loan including Trustee's expenses. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked no later than **August 5, 2008 and must be received no later than August 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $95,020.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2008.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency****

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Body found in Ala. freezer was mother of 8

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Police believe a body found in a small-time evangelist's home freezer is his wife and a mother of eight, and arrested him on a murder charge as he preached at a south Alabama church. Anthony Hopkins, 37, was being held in the Mobile County jail Wednesday awaiting a bond hearing and appointment of an attorney. Police said no one reported 36-year-old Arletha Hopkins missing, even though she hadn't been heard from in three years. The body was discovered covered in a freezer in a utility room during a police search of the home in Mobile after a relative of the preacher contacted police. Mobile Police Chief Phillip Garrett said Hopkins was arrested Monday night at a revival in Jackson, a town in rural Clarke County where he has roots.

Bush signs new rules, roles for spy agencies

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush approved an order Wednesday that rewrites the rules governing spying by U.S. intelligence agencies, both in the United States and abroad, and strengthens the authority of the national intelligence director, according to a U.S. official and government documents. Executive Order 12333, which lays out the responsibilities of each of the 16 agencies, maintains the decades-old prohibitions on assassination and using unwitting human subjects for scientific experiments, according to a power point briefing given to Congress that was reviewed by The Associated Press. The new order gives the national intelligence director, a position created in 2005, new authority over any intelligence information collected that pertains to more than one agency - an attempt to force greater information exchange among agencies traditionally reluctant to share their most prized intelligence.

Suspect in NC soldier's death was baby's father

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—The Fort Bragg sergeant charged in the death of a pregnant soldier was the father of her unborn baby but married to someone else, police said Wednesday. Fayetteville Police Chief Tom Bergamine said during a news conference that Sgt. Edgar Patino, 27, admitted fathering Spc. Megan L. Touma's baby. Touma, 23, was seven months pregnant when found dead in a motel bathtub last month. Patino, who was arrested at his home Tuesday, acknowledged being in Touma's hotel room June 13, the last day her hotel room key was used, police said. Touma was found dead June 21 after a motel maintenance supervisor smelled a foul odor coming from a room, which had a "Do Not Disturb" sign hanging on the door.

Strict building codes credited after Calif. quake

CHINO HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The latest in plywood-reinforced walls, tied-down foundations, strengthened concrete and stronger welds—if an earthquake had to hit somewhere in densely populated Southern California, this relatively new suburb of 80,000 people was about the best place possible. Chino Hills was just a few miles from the epicenter of Tuesday's magnitude-5.4 quake, yet it withstood the shaking with almost no damage at all, even while other communities farther away saw fallen bricks, cracked walls and windows, warped door frames and broken water mains and gas lines. One big reason: Chino Hills went up mostly in the 1990s and was built to the stringent earthquake standards that the state wants to see adopted everywhere across California before the Big One strikes.

Delta: Body of woman, 61, found in plane bathroom

ATLANTA (AP)—Flight attendants discovered the body of a 61-year-old woman in the restroom of a plane shortly before the flight landed in Atlanta Wednesday morning, a spokeswoman for the airline said. It was unclear how Michaele O'Neil Carnahan died, and how long she was in the restroom. The crew on the Los Angeles-to-Atlanta flight noticed the restroom was occupied on final approach, just before Flight 950 touched down at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport at 5:51 a.m., spokeswoman Keyra Johnson said. Atlanta police were notified and met the plane at the gate, Johnson said. The body was taken to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab in suburban Atlanta for an autopsy scheduled for Thursday.

Little progress since bridge collapse

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A year after the worst U.S. bridge collapse in a generation brought calls for immediate repairs to other spans, two of every three of the busiest problem bridges in each state—carrying nearly 40 million vehicles a day—have had no work beyond regular maintenance.

An Associated Press review of repairs on each state's 20 most-traveled bridges with structural deficiencies found just 12 percent have been fixed. In most states, the most common approach was to plan for repairs later rather than fix problems now.

The bridges reviewed by the AP—1,020 in all—are not in imminent danger of collapse, state engineers and highway officials say. But the officials acknowledge the structures need improvement, many sooner rather than later.

The collapse of the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge into the Mississippi River on Aug. 1, 2007, killed 13 people and brought immediate calls for repairs to bridges across the nation.

The failure to follow through was not because of lack of effort, officials said. Soaring construction costs, budget shortages, election-year politics, a backlog of bridge projects, competing highway repairs and bureaucracy often held bridge work to only incremental progress.

The AP gathered information on repair status from 48 states and Washington, D.C. In six states, data could not be obtained for some locally owned bridges. Louisiana and Nevada failed to respond.

The AP findings:

■ Sixty-four percent of the bridges received no work beyond regular maintenance, though most were targeted for some kind of future work.

■ Twelve percent had their structural defects fixed—usually through a major rehabilitation or outright replacement.

■ An additional 24 percent have seen a partial improvement, either through a short-term repair to temporarily address the defect or an ongoing project that is not yet complete.

The worst were Indiana, Oklahoma, New Hampshire and South Carolina, where work was conducted on only one of each state's 20 most heavily traveled structurally deficient bridges.

AP

In this Aug. 6, 2007 file photo, bridge inspector Scott Harris, right, and crane operator Andy Dubay inspect the Back River Bridge, on Route 127 over the Back River connecting Arrowsic and Georgetown, Maine.

FDA finds salmonella strain at 2nd Mexican farm

WASHINGTON (AP)—The salmonella strain linked to a nationwide outbreak has been found in irrigation water and in a sample from a batch of serrano peppers at a Mexican farm, federal health officials said Wednesday.

Dr. David Acheson, the Food and Drug Administration's food safety chief, called the finding a key breakthrough in the case, as did another health official.

"We have a smoking gun, it appears," said Dr. Lonnie King, who directs the center for foodborne illnesses at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Acheson said the farm is in Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Previously, the FDA had traced a contaminated jalapeno pepper to a farm in another part of Mexico, called Tamaulipas. Both farms shipped through a packing facility in Nuevo Leon, raising the possibility that contamination could have occurred there.

Acheson and other officials were grilled at a congressional hearing about why the investigation originally focused on tomatoes. Industry representatives complained that they have lost more than $300 million and had to dump tons of perfectly good tomatoes they could not sell because of government warnings. The probe was slowed even more because FDA investigators were unfamiliar with the workings of the tomato industry and were reluctant to share information, they said.

NYC police hold man accused of taking 4 kids, mom

NEW YORK (AP)—A man accused of abducting his wife and four young children from a Massachusetts apartment where another woman was found fatally stabbed was arrested Wednesday by police, who said the siblings and their mother were in good health.

The family was found in Brooklyn, the New York Police Department said. State police in Massachusetts and New York had issued Amber Alerts for the children, who range in age from 11 months to 3 years.

In Massachusetts, Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett said in a news release that police arrested the father, Rodlyn Petitbois, without incident about 6 p.m. as he walked down a Brooklyn street, and that the children and their mother were found safe in a Brooklyn apartment.

Blodgett said earlier that his office was seeking an arrest warrant for Petitbois on a first-degree murder charge. Blodgett said before the arrest the authorities believed Petitbois to be extremely dangerous and possibly armed.

The last known addresses of Petitbois, 25, and the children's mother, Louna Eveillard, 26, had been in Brooklyn, and the New York State Police said earlier that the couple might have been sighted in the borough Wednesday afternoon.

Police in Lynn, Mass., about 15 miles north of Boston, went to the apartment there early Wednesday after receiving a report of a stabbing. They found Greenland Etienne, 33, with stab wounds to her face; she was pronounced dead a short time later at a hospital.

Crane dismantling Texas bridge collapses; 1 dead

SMITHVILLE, Texas (AP)—A crane that was removing steel beams to dismantle an old river bridge became overloaded and toppled Wednesday, killing one worker and injuring another.

The crane smashed into a raised basket where the two men were working, knocking one off and killing him, said Smithville police Lt. Lonny Richardson. The man fell about 60 feet from the top of the old bridge and landed on construction equipment, Richardson said.

The bridge is about 75 feet above the Colorado River in Smithville in central Texas.

The workers were trying to loosen the joints of one beam, or girder, when another beam also became loose and caused the crane to topple, said Marcus Cooper, Texas Department of Transportation spokesman.

The operator of the crane managed to get out of the way "when things started going bad" and wasn't injured, Richardson said.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

US investigating soldier in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. military is investigating an American soldier who had been accused of raping a woman on Japan's southern island of Okinawa before Japanese authorities dropped the case, an army official said Wednesday. An army-appointed investigator began the military equivalent of a pretrial probe on Monday into the allegations against a 25-year-old specialist assigned to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Army spokeswoman Amanda Kraus said. The soldier, who is accused of assaulting the woman in February in a hotel room, is in custody on base but is not facing formal charges on any of the allegations, she said. In May, Japanese prosecutors in Okinawa dismissed charges against the soldier after finding insufficient evidence of violence and intimidation in the case.

China tightens security in iconic Tiananmen Square

BEIJING (AP)—Tourists visiting Beijing's Tiananmen Square, site of the 1989 violent crackdown on student demonstrators, will have to pass through a security check, a government official said Wednesday. The boost in security checks at the iconic square comes as more visitors arrive for the Olympic Games, said Jia Yingting, deputy director of the Tiananmen Square management committee. His comments were from a transcript of a news conference posted on the Web site of the Beijing International Media Center. Each underground entrance to the square already has a security checkpoint, he said. But it is not clear how visitors who stroll into the square from across the surrounding roads will be checked.

Police defuse another bomb in western India

AHMADABAD, India (AP)—Police defused another explosive device Wednesday in western India, bringing the total number of unexploded bombs found there in the last two days to 19. The discovery of the bombs in the diamond-polishing center of Surat on Tuesday and Wednesday came after 22 explosions tore through the nearby city of Ahmadabad over the weekend, killing 42 people and wounding 183. Seven small blasts also shook Bangalore in the south, killing one person. Authorities initially reported two deaths there but later said the second death was not related to the attack.

Hospital: Report on Anwar innocence 'looks genuine'

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A medical report that appeared to prove Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's innocence in a sodomy case "looks genuine," an official said Wednesday. Anwar was accused last month of sodomizing his male aide, who filed a police complaint after being examined at two hospitals, first at the Pusrawi Hospital and then at the government's Kuala Lumpur General Hospital.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
AUGUST 1, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL RECONVENE ITS MEETING OF JULY 29TH, TODAY AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes – July 15, 2008

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **REPORTS**
   1. Financial Report – DCD

IV. **DIVISION/COMMITTEES**
   1. Development Corporation Division (CDC)
      a. Status of Pending Items
   2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
      a. Status of the DBD Funds
      b. CPA Loan
   3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget Committee
      a. Administration's Report
   4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities Committee
      a. Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort
      b. Compliance Issues

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Department of Commerce – Business Summit/Forum
   2. Public Law 16-2

VII. **OTHER MATTERS**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. ***(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)***

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Rota International Airport Runway Phase II project, Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);

3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;

4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and

5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., August 15, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:
Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/**Lee C. Cabrera**
Acting Executive Director
July 16, 2008

JESUS C. BORJA
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505889
Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIANS FOR TRISTIN LANCE VILLAGOMEZ MUNA, a male child, By: JACK JASON S. ATTAO and RENEE M. ATTAO, Husband and Wife, Petitioners.	]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0422 FCD **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS**

TO: ALL LIVING PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND ADULT SIBLINGS OF THE MINOR CHILD, TRISTIN LANCE VILLAGOMEZ MUNA.

You are hereby notified that the hearing on the petition filed by Petitioners, jack Jason S. Attao and Renee M. Attao, to be appointed General Guardians of the minor male child, Tristin Lance Villagomez Muna, has been set for 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, on Monday, August 18, 2008, in Courtroom 205A at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan. You are invited to attend this hearing.

Dated this 25th day of July 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
ARRIVAL VENTURES LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ARRIVAL VENTURES LTD., Plaintiff. v. REPUBLIC OF NAURU FINANCE CORPORATION, REPUBLIC OF NAURU, NAURU CORPORATION (GUAM), NAURU PHOSPHATE ROYALTIES TRUST, NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION and DOES 1-5 Inclusive, Defendants.	]	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0175 **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:
REPUBLIC OF NAURU FINANCE CORPORATION
REPUBLIC OF NAURU
NAURU CORPORATION (GUAM)
NAURU PHOSPHATE ROYALTIES TRUST
NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION
DOES 1-5 INCLUSIVE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this__day of July, 2008.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Published Notice of Deficiencies and Denials
with respect to Applications Filed with the Labor Department

On August 1, 2008, the Labor Division will begin publishing on the Labor Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, notices with respect to deficiencies in and denials of applications. The Labor Division will also post these notices on the bulletin boards at its offices in the Afetna Square building in San Antonio.

The Department is taking this step in part because of difficulties in the past when foreign national workers did not know that an employer's application involving employment for them had been deficient or denied. This way, everyone involved will have access to the notice. In addition, the Department is operating under an austerity budget that requires it to use the most efficient legally permissible means possible to deliver notices.

All applicants are responsible for checking the website or the bulletin boards for actions taken on any pending application. Applicants will have 15 days from the date of posting to cure deficiencies or to appeal denials.

If an applicant provides an e-mail address at the time of application, the Department's automated processing system will automatically send an e-mail with respect to any deficiency or denial. The e-mail notice is a courtesy provided by the Department. Absence of an e-mail notice will not excuse any failure to cure a deficiency or to appeal a denial.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Published Notice of
E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

Employment Services

employservices@cnmi-gov.net
Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

Labor Processing
laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net
Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

Labor Enforcement
laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net
Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Enforcement.

Administrative Hearing Office

laborhearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net
Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
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Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE
Requirements for Filing a Complete Application

The requirements of the Labor Department's automated processing system necessitate that each application be complete when filed. However, applications need to be complete when filed only for Labor Department purposes, not for Immigration Division purposes. Applications can be supplemented when they reach the Immigration Division.

For Labor Department purposes, the following are NOT REQUIRED in order to have a complete application filed with Labor Processing:
- Health certification
- Police clearance
- Passport copy
- BGRT information

Employment Services may require the filing of BGRT information in connection with a job vacancy announcement and Labor Processing may request BGRT information when examining an application, but this information is not required to be filed in every case.

A completed Job Vacancy Announcement **IS REQUIRED** in order to have a complete application.

World

Israeli PM to resign, won't run in party primary

JERUSALEM (AP)—Facing burgeoning corruption allegations and plummeting popularity, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Wednesday he will resign in September, throwing Israel into political turmoil and heightening doubts about prospects for peace with the Palestinians and Syria.

Olmert said he would not run in his party's primary election Sept. 17 and would step down afterward to allow his successor to form a government. But because of Israel's political system, he could serve until well into next year.

His decision will end a long public career that has been clouded by allegations of corruption that have battered him in recent months.

Olmert's popularity dropped below 20 percent at one point after his bloody but inconclusive war in Lebanon in 2006.

Political analysts had been predicting his resignation for weeks as details of the latest allegations against him dominated the news.

Olmert

The most damaging inquiry focuses on Morris Talansky, a 76-year-old American Jewish businessman who testified that he handed envelopes stuffed with tens of thousands of dollars to Olmert before he became prime minister, in part financing a luxurious lifestyle of expensive hotels and fat cigars.

Talansky gave lengthy public testimony for days in a Jerusalem courtroom, defending his allegations under cross-examination by Olmert's attorneys—although Olmert has never been formally charged with a crime.

The latest allegation was that Olmert double and triple-billed trips abroad to Jewish institutions, pocketing the difference or financing trips for relatives. Other allegations include a shady real estate deal and questionable political appointments—all before he became premier.

Olmert's brief address from his official Jerusalem residence included harsh criticism of the police investigations. He said he was choosing the public good over personal justice. Although he has consistently denied wrongdoing, he had pledged to resign if indicted.

"I was forced to defend myself against relentless attacks from self-appointed 'fighters for justice' who sought to depose me from my position, when the ends sanctified all the means," Olmert said, appearing angry and reading from a text.

LIVIN' LARGE AP

Livia Ionce, 44, second left, holds her newborn daughter, Abigail Ionce, who was born Tuesday, as she and her husband, Alexandru, 51, pose for a photograph with 13 of their 18 children at their home in Abbotsford, Canada. Their oldest child is 23 years old. The couple immigrated to Canada from Romania in 1990.

Karadzic in UN custody in Netherlands

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal has Radovan Karadzic in custody, 13 years after indicting the Bosnian Serb leader on genocide charges.

From video of summary executions to photos of skeletal prisoners, prosecutors have plenty of evidence of atrocities.

But Slobodan Milosevic's tortuous trial demonstrated how tricky it is to prove a political leader masterminded the crimes as part of a genocidal plot to carve out an ethnically pure Serb ministate in Bosnia.

The late Serb despot, however, may have helped prosecutors by blaming Karadzic for Bosnian atrocities. Milosevic had argued that as leader of Serbia, he was not in control of Karadzic and his Bosnian Serb forces who killed tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats in the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

"During the Milosevic trial, it became really clear that Karadzic was the real architect of genocide," said professor Michael Scharf, the director of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center at Case Western Reserve University. "The defense made a convincing case that Milosevic was much less culpable than Karadzic."

Milosevic, a one-time mentor to Karadzic, died in his cell in March 2006, bringing his four-year trial to an inconclusive end.

Ten suspects have been charged with mankind's "crime of crimes" since the U.N. court opened its doors in 1993. Only one, Gen. Radislav Krstic, who commanded Serb forces involved in the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslim men in Srebrenica, has been found guilty. An appellate court reduced his original conviction for genocide to aiding and abetting genocide.

Zimbabwe drops 10 zeros from inflated currency

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe announced Wednesday that it is knocking 10 zeros off its hyper-inflated currency—a move that turns 10 billion dollars into one.

President Robert Mugabe threatened a state of emergency if businesses profit from the country's economic crisis, a move that could give him even more sweeping powers to punish opponents in the event that political power-sharing talks fail.

"Entrepreneurs across the board, don't drive us further," Mugabe warned in a nationally televised address after the currency announcement. "If you drive us even more, we will impose emergency measures. ... They can be tough rules."

But in a glimmer of possible rapprochement in Zimbabwe's political turmoil, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai revealed that he met with Mugabe last week for the first time in years and discussed the "pitfalls in any future government" that might emerge from the negotiations.

He didn't indicate their meeting produced any agreement, however.

In a conciliatory gesture, Tsvangirai told Britain's Channel 4 that his longtime rival is as "human as everyone else." However, he added the president is "in denial" about the economic problems and political violence that have swept this once prosperous southern African nation.

Central Bank Gov. Gideon Gono announced he was dropping 10 zeros from Zimbabwe's currency, effective Friday. The move comes a week after the issue of a 100 billion-dollar note—still not enough to buy a loaf of bread.

Gono said the new money would be launched with 500-dollar bills. He also said he was reintroducing coins, which have been obsolete for years, and told people to dig out their old ones.

Pest exterminator lost in Outback survives on bugs

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Lost in the rocky, remote Australian Outback, a former pest exterminator faced dehydration and death. Desperate for food, he turned to what he knew best—bugs, he said Wednesday.

Theo Rosmulder, 52, managed to survive for four days by feasting on termites and other insects before local Aborigines happened upon him Tuesday and brought him back to civilization.

A weary-looking Rosmulder told reporters that he found some relief from hunger at a giant termite mound. "I just hit the top of the termite nest off and got stuck into them," Rosmulder said.

"Termites don't taste too bad," he said at a news conference in the southwestern Australian mining town of Laverton.

Rosmulder was suffering from dehydration but otherwise in "surprisingly good condition," Western Australia state police Sgt. Graham Clifford said. He said the insects and termites provided Rosmulder a bit of moisture and some protein.

"He kept eating what he used to kill," Clifford said.

Rosmulder had been searching for gold with his wife and a group of other prospectors about 80 miles north of Laverton, police said.

On Friday, he became lost after heading out alone, armed only with a pocketknife, flashlight and a metal detector, Clifford said. His prospecting group called police Friday night after he failed to return to camp.

Police launched a large search operation at first light Saturday morning, with dozens of searchers combing 77 square miles of the rocky desert terrain by land and air.

"The chap did say he saw planes on a number of occasions and waved items of clothing, but they didn't attract the attention," Clifford said.

Rosmulder said he managed to get some rest during his ordeal. "Found a hollow in the rocks where the kangaroos slept and crawled into it, got a few bushes over the top of me and stayed the night," Rosmulder said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nonaligned countries back Iran's nuclear program

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—More than 100 nonaligned nations backed Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear power on Wednesday, an endorsement sought by Tehran in its standoff with the U.N. Security Council over its refusal to freeze uranium enrichment. The decision came as supreme Iranian leader Ayatolla Ali Khamenei pledged to continue the country's nuclear program. Senior Iranian officials depicted the support from a high-level conference of the Nonaligned Movement as deflating claims by the U.S. and its allies that most of the international community wanted Iran to stop enrichment. The conference's backing, which echoes the group's previous declarations, acts to "remove this notion that the international community opposes the nuclear activities of Iran," said Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki.

Iraqi parliament deadlocks over Kirkuk

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi lawmakers on Wednesday scheduled an emergency weekend meeting during summer recess to resolve disagreements that have blocked a provincial elections law and threaten a new wave of bloodshed in the disputed northern city of Kirkuk. The standoff over control of Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, is also the latest example of Iraqi political deadlock despite impressive military gains against Shiite militias and Sunni insurgents. The law enabling elections in Iraq's 18 provinces would divide the ruling council in Tamim—of which Kirkuk is the largest city—equally among Kurds, Turkomen and Arabs. But Kurds and their allies now hold a majority on the Tamim provincial council and oppose any move that would diminish their power.

Bin Laden's driver denies making loyalty oath

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A former driver for Osama bin Laden denied Wednesday that he had sworn a loyalty oath to the al-Qaida leader, contradicting potentially damaging testimony of a Defense Department interrogator. Salim Hamdan, a Yemeni, testified at his war crimes trial that the nine-hour interrogation focused almost entirely on whether he swore an Islamic oath, or "bayat," to his boss, but he refused to discuss the topic. "I never talked to them about this issue," Hamdan told the judge through an Arabic interpreter. "I never pledged allegiance." Judge Keith Allred, a Navy captain, is evaluating whether the May 2003 interrogation is tainted by coercion and therefore inadmissible as evidence at the first American war crimes trial since World War II. He said he would issue a ruling Thursday morning.

Turkey's Islamic ruling party narrowly avoids ban

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's top court narrowly voted against disbanding the ruling party Wednesday over accusations it is plotting to impose Islamic rule, but the judges cut off millions of dollars in state aid to a party locked in a power struggle with the secular elite. The decision averted political chaos, at least in the short term, for a country seeking to join the European Union. But the case exposed the vulnerabilities of Western-style democracy in Turkey, where the fate of an Islamic-oriented governing party with strong electoral backing lay in the hands of a panel of 11 judges. The Constitutional Court delivered a strong—though unspecified—warning to the ruling Justice and Development Party in its decision to deprive it of half of its state funding. The party will lose about $15 million this year.

Off the Wall

Golden retriever adopts tiger cubs at Kansas zoo

CANEY, Kan. (AP)—A dog at a southeast Kansas zoo has adopted three tiger cubs abandoned by their mother. Safari Zoological Park owner Tom Harvey said the tiger cubs were born Sunday, but the mother had problems with them.

A day later, the mother stopped caring for them. Harvey said the cubs were wandering around, trying to find their birth mother, who wouldn't pay attention to them. That's when the cubs were put in the care of a golden retriever, Harvey said.

Harvey said it's unusual for dogs to care for tiger cubs, but it does happen. He said he has seen reports of pigs nursing cubs in China, and he actually got the golden retriever after his wife saw television accounts of dogs caring for tiger cubs.

Puppies take about the same amount of time as tiger cubs to develop, and Harvey said the adoptive mother just recently weaned her own puppies.

"The timing couldn't have been any better," he said.

The mother doesn't know the difference, Harvey said. He said the adopted mother licks, cleans and feeds the cubs.

AP

Isabella, a golden retriever at the Safari Zoological Park, east of Caney, Kan. nurses Wednesday, July 30, 2008, three white tiger cubs she adopted after they were abandoned by their mother at the park. The cubs were born on Sunday.

The Safari Zoological Park is a licensed facility open since 1989 and specializes in endangered species.

It has leopards, lions, cougars, baboons, ring-tailed lemurs, bears and other animals. It currently has seven white tigers and two orange tigers.

Because white tigers are inbred from the first specimen found more than a half-century ago, they are not as genetically stable as orange tigers.

The zoo's previous litter of white tiger cubs was born April 23, although one of the three has since gone to a private zoo near Oklahoma City.

Stinky gambler fuming over casino ejection

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Yes, Michael Wax stunk. He's the first to admit it. The 440-pound Brooklyn man said he was playing poker in an Atlantic City casino for 17 hours Tuesday and didn't have time to clean up. He understands why grossed-out gamblers complained about his body odor, but said he didn't deserve stinky treatment from the casino that asked him to leave.

Dave Coskey, a spokesman for the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, said it is company policy not to comment on matters involving their customers.

Wax said he told casino officials: "There's no question I stink. I'm not denying it. I do have an odor. I've been playing for 17 hours."

The 54-year-old limousine company owner, who says he is a frequent gambler at the Borgata, said a poker room manager followed him into the restroom and informed him that patrons at his table were complaining about his body odor.

When he tried to re-take his seat at the table, he said a manager told him he couldn't play anymore and to leave. He said he asked for a free room to freshen up, and the casino refused.

He promptly filed a complaint about his treatment with the Casino Control Commission. His complaint will be reviewed to determine whether any state gambling laws or regulations were violated, a commission spokesman said Wednesday.

Wax said his instincts tell him to find a different casino to patronize, but he likes gambling at the Borgata. He said the casino was out of line to tell him he stinks in front of other patrons.

"I would like an apology," Wax said.

Monkey from Mars: A Ga. crime lab's museum oddity

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Other museums might have more or flashier items to display. But only the mini-museum of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation can boast of possessing such an other-world oddity as the monkey from Mars.

The bureau's state crime lab lobby has its requisite displays on forensic science, including an illegal moonshine still and the microscopic fibers that solved the 1981-82 Atlanta child murders. But tucked away in a glass cylinder are the preserved remains of a monkey that three pranksters passed off as an alien 55 years ago in a UFO hoax that drew headlines worldwide.

At the height of UFO hysteria then sweeping the nation, two young barbers and a butcher took a dead monkey in 1953, lopped off its tail and applied a liberal dose of hair remover and some green coloring to the carcass.

Then they left the primate on an isolated road north of Atlanta in the pre-dawn hours of July 8, 1953, burning a circle into the pavement with a blowtorch before a police officer came around the curve in his patrol car.

"If we had been five minutes earlier, we would have caught 'em in the act," said Sherley Brown, the officer who happened on the scene.

The barbers, Edward Watters and Tom Wilson, and the butcher, Arnold "Buddy" Payne, told the policeman they came upon a red,

AP

A preserved monkey is shown on display in the lobby of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab Thursday July 24, 2008.

saucer-shaped object in the road that night. They said several 2-foot-tall creatures were scurrying about and the trio hit one with their pickup before the other creatures jumped back in the saucer and blasted skyward—leaving the highway scorched.

Brown took down the strange account and filed a report at police headquarters before going home.

Soon after his shift ended, he said, "the phone started ringing off the hook."

"They had the Air Force and everybody else trying to find out about it," said Brown, since retired in 1985.

Word of the discovery spread like wildfire.

Just the night before, some Atlanta area residents had reported seeing a large, multicolored object flying in the sky. A veterinarian who examined the corpse said it looked "like something out of this world." A newspaper put out an artist's drawing of the saucer that the men described.

But within hours the monkey business unraveled.

Dr. Herman D. Jones, the founder and director of the GBI lab, and Dr. Marion Hines, an anatomy professor at Emory University, examined the creature that evening and proclaimed it to be a hoax.

"If it came from Mars, they have monkeys on Mars," Hines was quoted as saying in an article at the time by The Associated Press that is set beside the monkey in the appointment-only museum.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Officer riding Segway makes drunk driving arrest

JACKSON, Mich. (AP)—It wasn't exactly a high-speed pursuit. A police officer riding a Segway arrested an 18-year-old Jackson woman early Tuesday morning for drunken driving. The Jackson Citizen Patriot reported the woman's car was going at least 40 miles per hour when it was spotted by an officer riding the police department's new battery-powered upright transporter around 4 a.m. The Segway tops out around 12 1/2 miles an hour, so the officer was only able to catch up to the woman after she stopped her car. He conducted field sobriety tests and made the arrest. But a Segway can't fit two, so he called for a patrol car to take her to jail. The Jackson police department purchased the Segway last month for $5,500. Police said this is their first Segway-aided arrest.

Doorman who won $5M, said he'd stay at job gets ax

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City doorman Richie Randazzo had said he wouldn't quit his day job after winning a $5 million lottery, and he didn't. He got fired. A spokesman for the union representing apartment building workers says Randazzo notified the union's grievance center on Tuesday that he had been shown the door. The exclusive Park Avenue apartment building where Randazzo worked is run by building management company Brown Harris Stevens. The company did not immediately return a call. Randazzo made $40,000 a year as a doorman. He began taking in another $65,000 every three months after hitting the jackpot May 2. Randozzo's father says his son got a letter that did not specify the reason for his discharge. He declined to give his name and said his son was not home.

Police say men crashed truck twice on same street

PEEKSKILL, N.Y. (AP)—Police say two drunken friends crashed their pickup truck into a parked car in New York City's northern suburbs and then drove down the street and crashed it again. Peekskill Detective Sgt. Eric Johansen said he's "never seen anything like it." The crashes happened over the weekend. Police said one of the men couldn't pull the truck free of the parked car he had hit so his friend hopped behind the steering wheel. They say the friend freed the truck but then drove it into another car parked down the block. The men have been charged with driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of a property damage accident. They're free on bail and are due in court next week.

A 44-pound cat needs a new home in New Jersey

BLACKWOOD, N.J. (AP)—Talk about New Jersey's fat cats. A 44-pound feline was found waddling around Saturday without a collar in Voorhees, and officials at the Camden County Animal Shelter hope she gets a nice—hopefully, diet-friendly—home. "She's built like a quarterback," said Deborah Wright, a shelter volunteer and current foster owner of the kitty. "I mean, how do you lose a 44-pound cat?!" Shelter officials are calling the porky cutie "Princess Chunk." The largest tabby on record weighed 46 pounds, 15 ounces. That cat, who lived in Australia, died in the 1980s. The Guinness World Records has since dropped the category, fearing cat owners might harm their animals in an attempt to break the record. Princess Chunk's owner has until Saturday to reclaim her. After that, the weighty pet will be eligible for adoption.

Roof of unique W.Va. home requires mowing

WINFIELD, W.Va. (AP)—The McHenrys are quite accustomed to strangers knocking on the door of their Putnam County home. Commuters, truck drivers, even delivery people will frequently show up on their doorstep and ask to sneak a peek inside. The McHenrys' house between Fraziers Bottom and Winfield, is almost entirely underground. They bought the house two years ago for $125,000. It is about 2,800 square feet, with three bedrooms and four bathrooms. Sitting between the highway and a small, rushing creek, the house is built into a little knoll that rises up fewer than 20 feet. The rest of the property is flat, making it the perfect place to play football, have picnics or, in the McHenrys' case, let dogs run loose. When one walks onto the roof of the house, it's just like being on a grassy hilltop. There's little evidence a house is hidden underneath. And, yes, they do have to mow the roof.

Science & Technology

2,100-year-old gadget tracked Olympics

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—An astronomical calculator, considered a technological marvel of antiquity, was also used to track dates of the ancient Olympic games, researchers have found.

Experts from Britain, Greece and the United States said they have detected the word "Olympia" on a bronze dial, as well as the names of other games in ancient Greece on the device known as the Antikythera Mechanism.

Their findings will be reported Thursday in the British science journal *Nature*.

The 2,100-year-old Antikythera Mechanism was recovered from an ancient shipwreck in 1901 near Antikythera, a small island off Greece's south coast.

Its insides look like a clock. About 30 bronze gears were cranked to calculate phases of the moon, eclipses and other celestial information specific to a certain date. Results were displayed on dials on the front and back of the mechanism.

Most workings of the device only came to light with recent advances in scanning technology and computer processing power.

In 2005, an X-ray tomography machine was brought from Britain to the National Archaeological museum of Athens, which houses the device's corroded and sediment-encrusted remains. Researchers soon found the gear structure—including the number of teeth cut into the wheels—corresponded to known theories of celestial cycles.

"It's like a medical scanner, but instead of putting people in it, we put the Antikythera Mechanism," Yanis Bitsakis, a co-author of the Nature report, told The Associated Press of the technology used to study the device.

Bitsakis, of Athens University's Center for History and Paleography, said finding the Olympian dial on the device was a surprise. Greece's ancient games had important religious significance and were commonly used dates for historical reference.

"We were astonished because this is not an astronomic cycle but an Olympian cycle, one of social events ...

AP

A visitor looks at a model replica of an ancient astronomical calculator, known as the Antikythera Mechanism, at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens, Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

One does not need a piece of high technology to keep track of a simple four-year cycle," he said. "It is perhaps not extravagant to see the mechanism as a microcosm illustrating the temporal harmonization of human and divine order."

In a second new find, also reported in *Nature* on Thursday, Bitsakis and fellow researchers found that month names etched onto the Antikythera Mechanism were consistent with ones used in Corinthian colonies in Sicily. This provides the first possible link with the Greek mathematician Archimedes, who died there about 100 years before the device was built, Bitsakis said.

"This is an interesting—not direct link but possible link—with the town where Archimedes used to work. It is the first link of this kind," he said.

With the powerful 3-D scanner, built by the British-based X-Tek Systems, scientists can peer into razor-thin sections of the device's 80-odd surviving fragments to understand its mechanics and read hundreds of tiny Greek inscriptions etched onto its bronze components.

Information was also gleaned from a technique developed by U.S.-based Hewlett-Packard Co. which made composite images of high-resolution digital photographs taken of the mechanism fragments under varied lighting conditions.

Bitsakis said improved computing power, used to analyze existing scans and images, made the latest discovery possible.

"The inscriptions are in very faint layers, like one-tenth of a millimeter in depth, and the letters are 1 millimeter high, so it's almost nothing," he said.

"(We had better) memory processing power and more powerful graphic cards ... Without this we couldn't see the inscription because you have to increase the resolution and the result is a very big file," he said.

The ongoing research project into the Antikythera Mechanism is being led by Mike Edmunds, professor of astrophysics, and his colleagues at Cardiff University in Britain.

Next space tourist spending bulk of fortune to fly

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The world's next space tourist, a computer game wizard, said Wednesday he's spending the bulk of his fortune on his $30 million adventure this fall.

Richard Garriott will make history as the first child of an American astronaut to rocket into orbit, and his dad will keep in touch with him during his time in space.

Garriott is set to fly aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the international space station Oct. 12. Speaking at a news conference in Houston on Wednesday, he said: "To be frank, this price tag is the majority of my wealth."

The 47-year-old Garriott said space flight was a goal he'd been working toward for much of his life. Poor eyesight ruined whatever shot he might have had at becoming a professional astronaut.

"But versus being crushed and giving up on that dream, that just set me on the path of saying, 'Oh, wait a minute, you can't tell me no,'" he said. "Literally, throughout my entire professional career, I've been investing in the privatization of space. ... so my father, he was not shocked at all to see me pursuing this."

His father, Owen Garriott, 77, was a NASA astronaut who visited America's first space station, Skylab, in 1973.

The elder Garriott will be at Russian Mission Control outside Moscow during the 10-day mission. The two hope to speak frequently. Garriott calls his father "my chief scientist" and says he helped develop the science and education experiments that will be taken to the space station.

Father and son also will speak via ham radio. Owen Garriott made the first ham radio call from space during a shuttle flight in 1983.

The soon-to-be space tourist is spending this week at Johnson Space Center learning about the space station. Traveling with him to the orbiting outpost will be American astronaut Mike Fincke and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Lonchakov, experienced space travelers who will spend six months up there.

Fincke says he has no qualms flying with an amateur.

"I can see he really understands the importance of what we're doing with space and that he understands the operational side of things," he said.

As a Texas computer game developer, Richard Garriott has specialized in medieval fantasy games, but he is moving more into science fiction and outer space. He hopes to connect in space with some of his "gamer" followers by sending messages down to them.

He's also carrying with him "the immortality drive," a computer project that will include a list of humanity's greatest achievements, digitized human DNA and personal messages from Earthlings. The program will be stored on the space station in case calamity were to one day wipe out Earth.

Garriott, a fan of haunted houses, doesn't anticipate being scared at launch or landing, just "a little more trepidation" than usual.

"I'm a devout believer in training well for risky activities," he told reporters.

The Russians have already flown two generations of spacemen. Sergei Volkov, son of former cosmonaut Alexander Volkov, has been living on the space station since April. In a coincidental but historic quirk, Volkov and Garriott will return to Earth together.

Portugal to sell 500,000 of Intel's Classmate PCs

SEATTLE (AP)—Intel Corp.'s low-cost laptop initiative got a boost Wednesday from Portugal's government, which is pledging to provide elementary school students with 500,000 computers based on the chipmaker's Classmate PC design.

The announcement brings Intel's rivalry with the One Laptop Per Child organization into the spotlight once again.

In May, the nonprofit OLPC group said its green-and-white XO laptop computers would work with Microsoft Corp.'s Windows in addition to a homegrown Linux-based operating system.

The move was seen as a way to make the so-called "$100 laptop," which actually costs about $188, more palatable to education ministers in developing countries who might have balked at an open-source system.

But in a single deal for half a million PCs, Intel nearly matched OLPC's total orders to date - about 622,000 laptops - calling into question whether OLPC's adoption of Windows has made much difference.

A spokesman for Cambridge, Mass.-based One Laptop Per Child declined to comment on the intensifying competition with Intel and others to market computers aimed at students in developing countries.

As part of its biggest deal for the Classmate PC to date, Intel said it will serve as technology adviser to Portugal's Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications, which is coordinating the laptop program.

Intel spokeswoman Agnes Kwan said parents of young schoolchildren will be able to choose between computers running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system and ones with an open-source Linux operating system, and that the government will distribute the machines to Portugal's elementary school students over the course of the 2008-2009 school year.

As of the middle of this year, "hundreds of thousands" of the Classmate PCs had already shipped to customers in more than 30 countries, according to Kwan.

The spokeswoman declined to disclose how much the laptops will cost parents or other financial terms of the deal. She said Portugal's Ministry of Education is working out pricing details.

Classmate PCs are based on Intel's design and include its processors, but they are built by other manufacturers and sold under a variety of brand names. The first generation went on sale in March 2007; a heftier version with a faster processor and a bigger screen hit the market in April 2008.

Project to rebuild Internet gets $12M, bandwidth

NEW YORK (AP)—A massive project to redesign and rebuild the Internet from scratch is inching along with $12 million in government funding and donations of network capacity by two major research organizations.

Many researchers want to rethink the Internet's underlying architecture, saying a "clean-slate" approach is the only way to truly address security and other challenges that have cropped up since the Internet's birth in 1969.

On behalf of the government, BBN Technologies Inc. is overseeing the planning and design of the Global Environment for Network Innovations, or GENI, a network on which researchers will be able to test new ideas without damaging the current Internet.

The $12 million in initial grants from the National Science Foundation will go to developing prototypes for the GENI network.

To test these prototypes, the Internet2 organization is contributing 10 gigabits per second of dedicated bandwidth, so researchers won't have to worry about normal Internet traffic interfering with their experiments. National LambdaRail is offering another 30 gigabits per second of capacity, though it won't be dedicated to GENI at all times.

The bandwidth is thousands of times faster than standard home broadband connections - enough to run 30 high-quality movies into your home simultaneously.

Craig Partridge, chief scientist at BBN Technologies, said the commitments amounted to an important endorsement of GENI by two organizations that run ultra-high-speed networks for universities and other researchers to conduct data-intensive projects.

Construction on GENI could start in about five years and cost $350 million. Congress still has to approve those funds.

Scientists recreate hidden van Gogh portrait

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—A team of European scientists unveiled on Wednesday a new method for extracting images hidden under old masters' paintings, recreating a color portrait of a woman's face unseen since Vincent van Gogh painted over it in 1887.

For years, art historians have been using x-rays to probe artworks hidden underneath other paintings, a technique resulting in a fuzzy, black-and-white image. But Joris Dik, a materials scientist from Delft University, and Koen Janssens, a chemist from the University of Antwerp in Belgium, combined science and art to engineer a new method of visualizing hidden paintings, using high-intensity x-rays and an intimate knowledge of old pigments.

The pair used the new approach on "Patch of Grass," a small oil study of a field that Van Gogh painted in Paris while living with his brother Theo, who supported him.

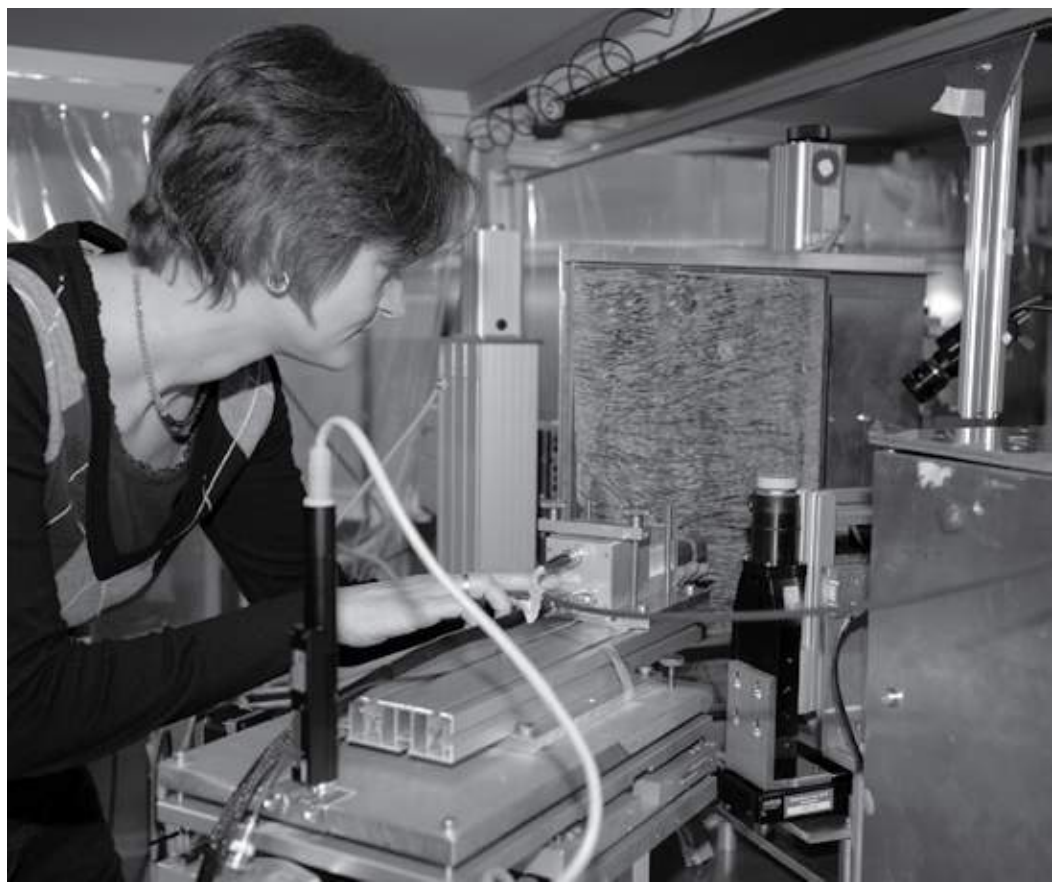
While not exact in every detail, the image produced is a woman's head that may be the same model Van Gogh painted in a series of portraits leading up to the 1885 masterpiece "The Potato Eaters."

The new method will allow art historians to obtain higher quality and more detailed images underlying old masterpieces. In Van Gogh's case, it could reveal details of works that were painted over. For other works, it could provide new insights into the studies that the artist built a painting on.

Dik and Janssens used high-intensity x-rays from a particle accelerator in Hamburg, Germany to compile a two-dimensional map of the metallic atoms on the painting beneath "Patch of Grass," which is part of the large Van Gogh collection in the Kroller-Muller Museum in the Netherlands.

Knowing that mercury atoms were part of a red pigment and the antimony atoms were part of a yellow pigment, they were able to chart those colors in the underlying image.

"We visualized—in great detail—the nose, the eyes, according to the chemical composition." Dik said. Scanning a roughly 7-inch square of the larger portrait took two full days.



AP

A Dec. 21, 2007 photo provided by the German Electron-Synchrotron DESY on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 shows scientist Karen Rickers adjusting a special x-ray device to detect a hidden portrait under the Vincent van Gogh painting 'Grasgrond' from 1887, center, at a DESY laboratory in Hamburg, northern Germany.

AP

In this undated composite image provided by the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands, Wednesday, July 30, 2008, a hidden portrait under the Vincent van Gogh painting "Patch of Grass" from 1887, is seen.

Though his paintings are now worth millions, Van Gogh was virtually unknown during his lifetime and struggled financially before committing suicide in 1890. He often reused canvas to save money, either painting on the back or over the top of existing paintings, and experts believe roughly a third of his works hide a second painting underneath.

The painting under "Patch of Grass" adds weight to the theory that Van Gogh mailed paintings from the Netherlands to his brother Theo, and, after moving to Paris to join him, found the old works and painted over them.

Teio Meedendorp, an independent Van Gogh expert in Amsterdam, said the underlying woman was probably painted between November 1884 and March 1885, while Van Gogh was living in the Dutch village of Nuenen. In that period he painted a series of heads in what Meedendorp called "oil lamps and candlelight," followed by the famous "Potato Eaters" of April 1885.

Both Dik and Meedendorp were excited about the prospect of using the technique to probe paintings by Van Gogh and other famous artists such as Rembrandt and Picasso.

"I was really surprised by the quality of the image, which is really promising for the future of research," Meedendorp said.

However, scanning other paintings may be difficult since the technique requires a particle accelerator, and few exist in the world and none in the Netherlands.

Dik and Janssens' scientific paper was published online Wednesday in the Journal of Analytical Chemistry.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: When I shut down my computer, I get a notice that "ccSvcHst.exe" is not responding. What does this mean, and how do I correct it?

A: "CcSvcHst" stands for "Common Client Service Host," a background component of Symantec's security software. And the solution to this problem (as explained here two winters ago) is simple enough: When an unresponsive program prevents Windows from shutting down on its own, click that dialog's "End Now" button to terminate the stubborn program.

What is not so simple is why we have to decipher such inscrutable eight-character file names as "ccSvcHst.exe" more than a dozen years after Windows 95 supposedly banished them. Why can't Symantec identify this file with something closer to English, like "Common Client Service Host.exe" or, better yet, "Symantec Common Client Service Host.exe"?

Brendon Woirhaye, Symantec's director of quality engineering, said the company must use a DOS-vintage short file name to adapt to the practices of some computer manufacturers that bundle Symantec's utilities. He said the tools these companies use to automate the installation of such add-on programs as Symantec's Norton Internet Security can't read long file names.

Woirhaye added that such "very antiquated" installer software is not widespread in the industry, but Symantec can't produce different versions of its software for different PC manufacturers.

Had Woirhaye named the firms that are still using such fossilized systems to configure their PCs, I would mock them here. Instead, all I can offer is this general observation: It's pathetic how often progress in the computer industry has to wait on the least motivated — or least competent — companies in the business.

TECH TIPS

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

While your electric bills climb with the summer heat, it's a good idea to inspect your electronics for possible energy savings. The best way to do so is to use a power meter such as P3's Kill-A-Watt to spot the energy hogs. These devices sell for $20 to $30 in stores, and some local libraries also loan them out.

But, if you don't have a power meter handy, you can start to cut your power bill simply by identifying the oldest devices in your house. Most TVs, VCRs and stereos predating this decade draw a few watts of current even when turned off; unplugging them when not in use should immediately chisel away at your electrical consumption.

■ ■ ■

Some of the most useful commands and options in a program may be waiting in menus that only appear if you click your mouse's right button—or, on Macs with single-button mice, if you hold down the Ctrl key and click. These right-click menus usually group commands related to whatever lies underneath them; for example, right-clicking on a program's shortcut in the Windows Start menu will let you rename it or "pin" it to the top of this menu. (Some misguided or malevolent developers take this practice too far by making commands accessible only through right-click menus.) So, if you're sure the software you're using ought to have a feature but can't find it in the usual menus and toolbars, try right-clicking and see what pops up.

■ ■ ■

If you don't learn how to use any other feature on your new cell phone, please take a few minutes to figure out how to change its ringtone. On one hand, you'll relieve coworkers, family members and friends from having to hear the default ringtone, which too often is the single most annoying one on the phone. On the other hand, you won't be confused when somebody else's phone goes off. On almost all phones, you can switch ringtones by navigating to the preferences, options or settings screen, then choosing the right category (usually named something like "sounds" if not the even more obvious "ringtones"). Since choosing a new ringtone usually involves first playing a lot that you won't like, save this work for when you're alone.

Nokia to beef up venture fund, expand in China

NEW YORK (AP)—Nokia Corp. is more than doubling the size of its direct venture investment fund with an injection of $150 million, with a view to putting some of the money to use in India and China.

"We've been investing in companies globally, but we need to get even more feet on the ground in China and India," said Rick Simonson, Nokia's chief financial officer.

Menlo Park, Calif.-based Nokia Growth Partners was set up in 2004 to directly manage $100 million of Nokia's money. Its investments have included Bitboys, a Finnish developer of graphics chips that was bought by ATI in 2006 for $44.5 million, and Global Locate, a U.S. maker of GPS chips that was bought by Broadcom Corp. for at least $146 million last year.

"We've had very good success with this model early on," Simonson said. "The financial performance is working as well or better than we expected."

Apart from seeking a financial return, the fund hunts for startups with technologies that are useful to Nokia. Some areas of focus have included mobile payments and camera technology.

Venture funds have become a standard accessory for companies in the cell phone arena, though the approaches vary.

Qualcomm Inc. has a venture fund with a broad portfolio, much like Nokia Growth Partners. Research in Motion Ltd., which makes the BlackBerry, announced in May that it had set up a $150 million fund with outside partners to invest in companies creating software for BlackBerrys and other mobile devices. In March, Apple Inc. said it would set up a $100 million "iFund" for the development of iPhone and iPod Touch applications.

Life & Style

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

When You Are Engulfed in Flames, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor with terminal cancer urges us to seize life's moments. (Pausch died Friday).

The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder, by Vincent Bugliosi (Vanguard: $26.95) A case for trying the president in the deaths of U.S. troops in Iraq. -5

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.

Fleeced, by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann (Harper: $26.95) How the average American is being sold out.

Ladies of the Night, by Gene Simmons (Phoenix Books: $39.95) The Kiss lead singer traces the history of prostitution and argues for making it legal.

Books, by Larry McMurtry (Simon & Schuster: $24) The award-winning author recounts his life as a buyer, seller and lover of books.

What Happened, by Scott McClellan (PublicAffairs: $27.95) The former Bush press secretary says the administration deceived the public about Iraq.

sTORI Telling, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The "90210" star tells all.

Fiction

Chasing Darkness, by Robert Crais (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) When a man cleared of a murder charge is found dead, Elvis Cole is called to account.

Swan Peak, by James Lee Burke (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) Private eye Dave Robicheaux tries to solve the killings of two Montana college students.

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on "Hamlet."

The Enchantress of Florence, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.

The Host, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.

Tribute, by Nora Roberts (Putnam: $26.95) A former child actress tries to discover whether her movie-star grandmother's death was suicide or murder.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: $24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

Unaccustomed Earth, by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf: $25) Stories of immigrants struggling with U.S. culture.

The Art of Racing in the Rain, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95) A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.

Chasing Harry Winston, by Lauren Weisberger (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) Girlfriends make a vow to radically updo their lives.

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Michael Chabon
on the value of entertainment

By SCOTT TIMBERG
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LOS ANGELES TIMES
Michael Chabon won a Pulitzer prize for "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay" and a Nebula Award for "The Yiddish Policemen's Union."

Michael Chabon, the author of novels including the exuberant, Pulitzer prize-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* and *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, an alternate-universe story that recently won the Nebula Award, has long harbored a passion: to make the literary world safe for genre fiction, and to expand the notion of what a serious work of fiction can be. "Entertainment has a bad name," begins the opening essay, "Trickster in a Suit of Lights," of his new collection, *Maps and Legends*. "Serious people learn to mistrust and even revile it. The word wears spandex, pasties, a leisure suit studded with blinking lights."

We spoke to Chabon, 45, from his home in Berkeley, Calif., about his crusade to save comics, science fiction, fantasy, horror and detective fiction from condescension.

Question: Let's start with some of the pulp or genre writers who have spoken to you over the years and perhaps inspired your own books.

Answer: There are so many. Raymond Chandler, Ross Macdonald, Ross Thomas, Ursula K. Le Guin, Frank Herbert, Michael Moorcock, Ray Bradbury, Jack Kirby, Steve Gerber, Alan Moore. And there are a whole list of borderland writers—John Crowley, Jorge Luis Borges, Stephen Millhauser, Thomas Pynchon—writers who can dwell between worlds.

Q: Where did this bias against work created for a popular audience come from?

A: In all fairness, it came from the fact that the vast preponderance of art created for a mass audience is crap. It's impossible to ignore that. But the vast preponderance of work written as literary art is high-toned crap. The proportion may settle down in the neighborhood of 90/10—Sturgeon's Law said that 90 percent of everything is crud.

Q: Let's talk about this in a specific instance—Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road* and its reception.

A: I thought it was an excellent novel. The least interesting thing to me as a reader was that it was science fiction. It presented a very pure example of post-apocalyptic literature, pared down to the essentials of a post-apocalyptic vision. But it's nothing that anybody reading science fiction over the last 60 or 70 years hasn't seen done many, many times before—maybe not by writers of McCarthy's caliber.

In terms of the vision it was presenting, it was notable only for the intense, McCarthy severity.

In fact, I responded to it much more as a work of horror fiction. But the response you saw out there generally was the sort of oh-my-God isn't this incredible, Cormac McCarthy has written a science fiction novel! Sometimes a little bit of a panic sets in, where critics aren't sure what to do about it or say about it.

And when this happens, when a writer of unassailable literary reputation, like McCarthy, does produce a work of genre fiction, under his own name, unlike say John Banville, the critical machine prints out and issues a pass to a writer: "This isn't science fiction, because it was written by Cormac McCarthy." Or, "We think all science fiction is bad, unless it's written by a Margaret Atwood or Cormac McCarthy."

In some ways the book may be closer to a work of prophecy, biblical prophecy, than anything else, and that's what we're responding to.

Ultimately with any great work of art, whether it was written by a Ray Bradbury or a Philip K. Dick or Cormac McCarthy, it's really the intensity with which it's been imagined and been brought into language.

Q: The conventional argument is that the literary writer's work is well imagined, well written, and the genre author can't write.

A: Every so often a writer hacks and crawls out of the brambles of genre. Somebody like Philip K. Dick clearly began in the pulps, writing mass commercial fiction.

Almost by dint of the passion of his fans, and the intensity of his vision, and all of that stuff, eventually he ends up getting canonized in Library of America. But those are much more the exceptions.

Q: Dick made that transition in a big way. He had intelligence, vision and so on—without ever becoming what you'd traditionally call a good writer.

A: He wrote much too quickly, there's no doubt about that. The pressure to write quickly is not good for any writer, no matter how gifted and intelligent, and it wasn't good for him.

Q: I wonder if Philip Pullman's tendency to fall between categories with the *His Dark Materials* books—they're kind of kids books, kind of for adults, kind of fantasy, kind of literary—made it hard for the movie of *The Golden Compass* to find an audience.

A: Maybe, but maybe it's that the movie wasn't that great. To me that's what makes a writer interesting: When a writer is sort of like a ball bearing caught between the magnetic fields, all positioned just right so the ball bearing floats in the air, wobbling because it's in this highly excited position, barely holding its place. You see that in Pullman at his best.

Pullman sort of, in a sense, may come back to the idea of pressure to publish frequently. He's written other good books, for young readers, but he was on a more traditional publishing schedule, turning out books very regularly, in series.

But then he hit *The Golden Compass* and he slowed down and took his time.

Not to say that great works of literature haven't been written in very brief periods of time. Sometimes the words come tumbling out in this white heat of composition. It's not a reliable indicator, but sometimes it's what separates a routine or genre writer from one we see as "a true artist."

Q: I wonder if national origins have a role in this. This country was founded by Puritans, who considered any kind of aesthetic pleasure to be idolatry. While Britain evolved out of a tradition of myths and legends and folk tales, which you can see in Tolkien and elsewhere.

A: They may be less eager to make those kinds of distinctions and keep them rigid. When I look at the British pop charts, for example, I'm always surprised at the British Top 40 and what a strange mixture of incredibly refined and edgy kinds of taste are represented there alongside pap and stuff that you would never see here. It's mixed together in this wonderful jumble that seems a lot less stratified. Some of that same sensibility might be reflected in literature as well.

It's certainly true in other countries. It's not an accident that we had the auteur theory developing in France: Those critics were watching Hitchcock films and John Ford films and Howard Hawks films and westerns and crime films and decided that they were clearly great works of art. H.P. Lovecraft too was acclaimed as a great American writer in France much sooner than here. When the Library of America included Lovecraft, there were a lot of people here who were smirking about it.

Q: It seems like behind your essays is this larger argument about childhood, which you seem to think our culture has misunderstood in some ways.

A: Childhood is a subject I talk about a lot. I haven't thought it through to know how much it has to do with what I'm saying about fiction and the short story. But there is unquestionably a connection for me between the maps I encountered as a young reader—the endpaper maps—and the maps I created for myself, both literally drew myself, of imaginary lands I was trying to bring into existence, and the internal maps I was creating of the world that I lived in, the world that I played in—the neighborhood. ... Where the mean dogs were, where the mean dads were, where the bad kids hung out. All of that was intimately connected in my mind with what I was reading.

I don't think there's any question that kids aren't sent out to play with the same kind of freedom anymore, at least not where I live. I would say, "Bye, Mom," and I'd be gone all day long. It felt like such a porous boundary, between my physical world, in which I enacted my imaginary games, and the world I was reading about in the books I loved. They fed each other. What happens when you take out one huge part of that—what happens to kids' imaginations?

And when you talk about crossing boundaries, seamlessly flipping from the imaginary to the real and back again, that's what I'm looking at with the writers I love.

Q: In some ways the traditional highbrow argument can seem rather silly: "If we don't privilege and protect certain kind of work, it'll all be `American Idol' all the time." That the forces of commercial culture will swamp all the good stuff.

A: Unquestionably—it's not just futile, it's ultimately destructive to try to fence things in that way. Robert Frost said, "Something there is that does not love a wall."

Jill Jackson's Hollywood

By JILL JACKSON

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HOLLYWOOD...

It's tourist time in Tinseltown
Not much movie news around
Filming is slow
But we'll try to go
On with the Show.

Forgive the giddiness, but that's what happens when one sits down to blank pages and tries to fill them with what isn't.

Here is what we do know on the film front. John Stamos is set to star in "Killing Mr. Kiesel," about two multi-millionaire brothers who marry the women of their dreams and end up dead. This said to be based on a true story.

And here's a switch: Samuel L. Jackson is leaving the big screen to create and produce shows for TV. His contract also states he can act in any one of his creations. ... And a few facts about Jackson you may not know. He was Bill Cosby's stand-in on "The Cosby Show," and he had a drug and alcohol problem for a while, but kicked that. His first job was as a security guard. He married LaTanya Richardson in 1980.

More future activity. Leonardo DiCaprio has finally found a script to his liking. Titled "Atari," it's about Nolan Bushnell, the so-called Godfather of the video game industry. Bushnell was an engineering student, a puzzle lover and a game enthusiast who went from fixing broken pinball machines to launching the famous Atari company. He ultimately sold the company to Warner Communications for $28 million. In his private life, Leo still visits the nightclubs, charms the ladies and enjoys his stardom.

Jackson

A new series will hit a cable network in the fall. Titled "Scream Queens," 10 unknown actresses will compete for a major role in a horror movie by trying to scream the loudest and the longest, and possibly the most horrifying. And take it from one who knows, a good scream is hard to produce. Back in my "acting" days, I snagged a part in a Western wherein I was attacked and supposed to give out with a piercing scream. I just could NOT produce one that pleased the director, so a screamer was brought in for me. She was a young actress named Edna Rae Gillooly. She gave out with the shrillest, longest, loudest, most piercing scream you could imagine. That young actress subsequently became Ellen Burstyn, a top actress, and I took to putting words on paper.

Ben Stiller has turned producer. His company, Red Hour Films, is set to bring out a film titled "Raindrops All Around Me," about a socially inept high-school teacher who learns to "dumb it down" in order to fit in with the people around him. At this writing, the decision has not yet been made as to whether Stiller will play that teacher. Betcha he does.

With long black hair and a rather matronly look, Brooke Shields told a group of reporters, "This is a business that doesn't want young actresses to improve their craft, but remain pretty and dumb." A bit of bitterness there, wouldn't you say?

■ ■ ■

BITS 'N' PIECES: All quiet in the Britney, Lindsay and Paris camps at this writing. ... Susan Saint-James is the latest thespian to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. ... Liv Tyler at a preem-screening in one of the ugliest green get-ups I have ever seen. ... And did you know that Debra Winger turned down the role in "Fatal Attraction" that made Glenn Close such a big star?

AP

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a town hall-style meeting in Rolla, Mo., Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

McCain, Obama to get the comic book treatment

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—It's a year of superheroes in Hollywood, with the big-budget epics of Batman, Iron Man and the Hulk, but a big-budget production out of Washington, D.C., is carving a niche in the animation trend.

Presumptive nominees John McCain and Barack Obama will star this fall in their own comic books put out by IDW Publishing, a San Diego-based publisher better known for telling the stories of robots ("The Transformers") and vampires ("30 Days of Night").

Don't expect Captain America-versus-Superman hijinks or supervillains threatening the electoral process. Trading sound bites for word balloons, the books purport to tell McCain and Obama's life stories, independently researched and illustrated by a veteran team of writers and artists.

"We're not doing anything that is sensational here," said IDW special projects editor Scott Dunbier, adding that neither campaign was involved in the development of the books. "We're sticking to the facts."

On Oct. 8, the books will be released in comic book shops and go on sale online and for reading on cell phones.

Comic book biographies have been written before - Marvel Comics had a best-seller in 1982 with a biography of Pope John Paul II. But Dunbier said the company is breaking new ground getting out fully researched comics on two candidates before Election Day.

Dunbier said the nontraditional style of storytelling and visuals in comics may reach some voters more effectively than other types of media can.

"We're not in the business of doing textbooks, but I think comic books really do have the great potential to inform and teach and do more than just standard superhero comics," he said.

Customers can pre-order the books over the Internet through IDW, which also will sell them through cell phones with the help of Kansas City-based uClick, the digital arm of newspaper feature distributor Universal Press Syndicate.

uClick already sells a service allowing customers to view comics over their phones but the presidential comics will be part of a push to begin allowing customers to order whole books over their phone, said Jeff Webber, vice president of product development.

"We'll be looking at how many people download to phones versus read them in print, which IDW should find interesting, as well as which (book) gets downloaded the most," Webber said. "This is a great opportunity to show people that there are comics on the phone."

The McCain book, with art by Stephen Thompson, is being written by Andy Helfer, a veteran comic-book author who helped develop the books that later became the movies "Road to Perdition" and "A History of Violence." He also has written comic-book biographies of Ronald Reagan and Malcolm X.

Obama's biography is being written by novelist Jeff Mariotte, who has also done comics on Superman, Spider-Man and Star Trek. Tom Morgan is doing the art.

J. Scott Campbell did both covers; each features its candidate in the classic superhero pose of squared shoulders and fists on hips with an American flag in the background.

Campbell said it was probably inevitable that the covers are already generating controversy on the Internet as supporters of the two candidates look for signs of bias. For example, some posters say that the reddish tinge to the sky behind a smiling McCain looks ominous while Obama followers are unhappy their candidate's expression is stern.

Campbell said he based his depiction of McCain and Obama on photographs of them he found on the Internet and that in those, typically, McCain is smiling while Obama is not. As for the red sky, he said that's the standard color associated with Republicans while Obama's cover is Democrat blue.

"I was really trying to go out of my way to be extra sensitive to the fact that I didn't want anything like that (bias) to come across," he said. "That wasn't the purpose of the book."

Helfer and Mariotte said they did extensive research, reading the candidates' own books, books written by others, newspaper articles and other sources - including a documentary Helfer found on YouTube of a disastrous fire aboard the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal in 1967, during the Vietnam War.

Helfer said he couldn't help but be moved by McCain's war experience, including being imprisoned by the Vietnamese. But he said he also included less-flattering experiences from McCain's youth as well as political setbacks during his time in Congress.

"My objectivity is in finding support, multiple kinds of support, for whatever I state," he said, adding that both books will include a full section of annotations. "I'm trying to create—as much as you can in 28 pages—a portrait of a human being. I think it's a balanced portrait of the guy."

Mariotte said he too kept to specific scenes in Obama's life, although he said he sometimes touched on some of the rumors of Obama's past that continue to resonate among his critics.

"I think anyone who reads it will see it's heavy on facts, light on opinion," he said. "I did kind of glance off some of those rumors just to point out this happened and this didn't, but I didn't dwell on those."

Queen Victoria's bloomers sell for 4,500 pounds

LONDON (AP)—Her majesty would not be amused. A pair of Queen Victoria's bloomers, with a 50-inch waist, were snapped up for $9,000 by a Canadian buyer at a central England auction Wednesday.

Auctioneer Charles Hanson said Queen Victoria's underpants belonged to "a very big lady of quite small stature with a very wide girth." She was said to be 5 feet (1.52 meters) tall.

The handmade knickers—which date back to the 1890s—bear the monogram "VR" for Victoria Regina. They are open-crotch style, with separate legs joined by a drawstring at the waist, a popular style in the late Victorian era.

The royal drawers belonged to a family in western England whose ancestor was a lady-in-waiting for the queen.

"These pants, considering their provenance and pedigree, are very exciting," Hanson said. "They are monogrammed and crested and we know that they are hers."

Also up for auction was Queen Victoria's chemise, with a 66-inch bust, sold for $8,000. Her nightgown sold for $11,000.

Before the auction, Hanson valued the underwear at $1,000, while the chemise and nightgown were valued at $600 each.

Queen Victoria lived from 1819 to 1901. She became queen at age 18 and was the U.K.'s longest-reigning monarch. Her reign is noted for both imperial expansion and the decreasing political power of the monarch.

In this undated photo provided by Hansons Auctioneers, Samantha Rhodes models a pair of bloomers said to have belonged to Britain's Queen Victoria.

AP

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
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Kyle Chandler

Q: I absolutely love NBC's "Friday Night Lights," and especially its star, Kyle Chandler. I remember him in a TV show about a decade ago where he could predict the future; I think it was on CBS. What was the name of it, and can I find it on DVD?—Helen R., via e-mail

A: I've had a crush on Kyle Chandler ever since he co-starred as Jeff Metcalf in the ABC drama, "Homefront," which ran from 1991-'93. The drama you are talking about is "Early Edition," and it aired on CBS from 1996-2000. Kyle played a stockbroker who suddenly starts receiving the daily newspaper a day early. Armed with information from the future, he spends his days trying to avert forthcoming tragedies. "Early Edition: Season 1" was finally released on DVD this past June and can be found at most retail and online stores.

■ ■ ■

Q: What is Karen Valentine doing now? I remember her from "Room 222."—Linda S., Arcadia, Fla.

A: Karen Valentine, 61, was never quite able to get out of the "cute girl" rut after Sally Field passed her the "Gidget" torch in 1969, when she starred in "Gidget Grows Up." Ever since then, Karen was typecast as the sweet, girl-next-door character. She found more-gratifying roles onstage, and most recently starred opposite John Larroquette in the 2004 Hallmark television movie "Wedding Daze." She and husband Gary Verna live in Los Angeles.

■ ■ ■

Q: I just heard that Chris Noth has quit "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Is this true? If so, whom will they get to take his place?—David H., Fort Myers, Fla.

A: Chris Noth, who recently had success on the big screen reprising his role of Mr. Big in the new "Sex and the City" movie, has announced that he will not be back for the popular crime drama's eighth season. Chris portrayed Mike Logan for three seasons and was very popular with fans of the show. He released this statement: "The last few years have been fantastic, and both sides are happy with the result. All's well that ends well." Taking his place will be veteran movie actor Jeff Goldblum.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can you tell me more about Peter Boyle? My daughter told me he passed away.—Janice T., Warner, Okla.

A: Peter Boyle, well know to many as Ray Romano's father in the hit sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond," died on Dec. 12, 2006, at age 71 from bone-marrow cancer and heart disease. Peter got his start in television commercials and with Chicago's Second City Improv group. After playing the bigoted and violent lead character in his breakout movie "Joe," Peter decided not to accept movie and television roles that glamorized violence. Many of his film and TV credits show off his wonderful comedic skills, like "The Dream Team," "While You Were Sleeping" and "Young Frankenstein." Peter is survived by his wife, Loraine, and their two daughters, Lucy and Amy.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Fri & Sat 1:05 4:15 7:05 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:15 7:05
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Doomed by a wronged sorceress, Zi Yuan, to spend eternity in suspended animation, China's ruthless Dragon Emperor and his 10,000 warriors have laid forgotten for eons, entombed in clay as a vast, silent Terracotta Army. But when dashing adventurer Alex O'Connell is tricked into awakening the ruler from eternal slumber, the reckless young archaeologist must seek the help of the only people who know more than he does about taking down the undead: his parents.
★ ★ ★
X Files: I Want to Believe
Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20 7:25 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20 7:25
David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
Thriller, Sci-Fi, Supernatural • Rated PG
Synopsis
The always-complicated relationship between Fox Mulder and Dana Scully moves in unexpected directions. Mulder continues his unshakable quest for the truth, and Scully, the passionate, ferociously intelligent physician, remains inextricably tied to Mulder's pursuits.
The Step Brothers
Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:10
Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Brennan Huff, a sporadically employed thirty-nine-year-old, lives with his mother, Nancy. Dale Doback, a terminally unemployed forty-year-old lives with his father, Robert. When Robert and Nancy marry and move in together, Brennan and Dale are forced to live with each other as step brothers. As their narcissism and downright aggressive laziness threaten to tear the family apart, these two middle-aged, immature, overgrown boys will orchestrate an insane, elaborate plan to bring their parents back together. To pull it off, they must form an unlikely bond that maybe, just maybe, will finally get them out of the house.
Dark Knight
Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13
Mamma Mia
Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20
Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G
Hellboy II
Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15
Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13
Hancock
Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30
Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13
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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

Katy Perry

1. Katy Perry No. 1 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)
2. Rihanna No. 2 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
3. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 3 "Lollipop" (Cash Money)
4. Chris Brown No. 6 "Forever" (Jive)
5. Leona Lewis No. 4 "Bleeding Love" (Syco/3)
6. Natasha Bedingfield No. 7 "Pocketful of Sunshine" (Phonogenic)
7. Coldplay No. 5 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)
8. Lil Wayne No. 11 "A Milli" (Cash Money)
9. Miley Cyrus No. 10 "7 Things" (Hollywood)
10. Plies feat. Ne-Yo No. 9 "Bust It Baby Part 2" (Big Gates/Slip-N-Slide)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Lil Wayne No. 1 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
2. Coldplay No. 2 "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)
3. Soundtrack No. 3 "Camp Rock" (Walt Disney)
4. Beck new entry "Modern Guilt" (DGC)
5. Kid Rock No. 7 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
6. Various Artists No. 6 "NOW 28" (EMI/Sony BMG/Universal/Zomba)
7. Soundtrack new entry "Mamma Mia!" (Decca)
8. Rihanna No. 9 "Good Girl Gone Bad" (SRP/Def Jam)
9. G Unit No. 4 "T.O.S. (Terminate on Sight)" (G Unit/Interscope)
10. John Mayer No. 5 "Where the Light Is: John Mayer Live in Los Angeles" (Columbia)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Blake Shelton No. 1 "Home" (Warner Bros.)
2. Alan Jackson No. 2 "Good Time" (Arista Nashville)
3. Brooks & Dunn No. 5 "Put a Girl In It" (Arista Nashville)
4. Montgomery Gentry No. 3 "Back When I Knew It All" (Columbia)
5. Sugarland No. 7 "All I Want to Do" (Mercury)
6. Keith Urban No. 9 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)
7. Taylor Swift No. 10 "Should've Said No" (Big Machine)
8. Keith Anderson No. 8 "I Still Miss You" (Columbia)
9. Miranda Lambert No. 12 "Gunpowder & Lead" (Columbia)
10. Kenny Chesney No. 4 "Better As a Memory" (BNA)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. The Dark Knight (PG-13) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
2. Mamma Mia! (PG-13) Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgard
3. Hancock (PG-13) Will Smith, Charlize Theron
4. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson
5. Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) Ron Perlman, Selma Blair
6. WALL-E (G) animated
7. Space Chimps (G) animated
8. Wanted (R) James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
9. Get Smart (PG-13) Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
10. Kung Fu Panda (PG) animated

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. Vantage Point (PG-13) Dennis Quaid (Sony Pictures)
2. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) Owen Wilson (Paramount)
3. 10,000 BC (PG-13) Steven Strait (Warner)
4. Fool's Gold (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey (Warner)
5. The Bucket List (PG-13) Jack Nicholson (Warner)
6. Meet the Browns (PG-13) Tyler Perry (Lionsgate)
7. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Freddie Highmore (Paramount)
8. Jumper (PG-13) Hayden Christensen (20th Century Fox)
9. Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) Ryan Reynolds (Universal)
10. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Martin Lawrence (Universal)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Vantage Point (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
2. Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
3. 10,000 BC (PG-13) (Warner)
4. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) (Nickelodeon Video)
5. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) (Paramount)
6. The Bucket List (PG-13) (Warner)
7. Fool's Gold (PG-13) (Warner)
8. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) (Disney)
9. Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) (Universal)
10. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) (Universal)

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Atty: Britney wants no contact with Sam Lutfi

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Britney Spears said Wednesday that he will not seek an extension for a restraining order against Osama "Sam" Lutfi, but that doesn't mean the pop star wants her former sidekick back in her life.

"Britney has made clear to everyone that she does not want to be further harassed or contacted in any way by Osama 'Sam' Lutfi, now or at anytime in the future," Spears' attorney Samuel D. Ingham III said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Attorneys for Spears and her father James are expected to appear in a Los Angeles courtroom Thursday morning to give an update on the conservatorship. A hearing on a temporary restraining order barring Lutfi from having contact with the pop singer was also scheduled for Thursday. The order issued earlier this year required Lutfi to stay 250 yards away from Spears or her homes.

Lutfi represented one of the strangest twists in Spears' downward spiral earlier this year. The singer's mother accused Lutfi—who described himself as a friend and sometime manager—in court papers of keeping Spears a hostage in her own home, drugging her and taking over her finances.

Spears

A phone message left Wednesday evening on Lutfi's cell phone was not immediately returned. His publicist declined to comment until after the court hearing.

Lutfi was a fixture in Spears' life during a period when the star exhibited erratic behavior, including being photographed without underwear, shaving her head and occasionally looking dazed in public.

Spears' father has control over his 26-year-old daughter's personal life and finances.

That power negates the need for a restraining order against Lutfi since James Spears' role as conservator allows him to decide who sees his daughter, according to Ingham's statement.

He serves as a court-appointed counsel representing Spears' interest in the ongoing conservatorship case.

"During the temporary conservatorship, the conservators have the power to insure that Lutfi will not harm Britney anymore," Ingham wrote.

Thursday's hearing had originally been scheduled to decide whether the conservatorship should be made permanent, but Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Reva Goetz decided weeks ago that she would instead consider other issues.

Alicia Keys snubs out cigarette branding from gig

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Philip Morris International has pulled down billboards and posters promoting an Alicia Keys concert Thursday in Indonesia's capital after the singer protested the cigarette company's sponsorship.

The logo and slogans of A Mild cigarettes, produced by a Philip Morris affiliate, featured prominently in promotional materials for the concert.

The Washington-based Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids anti-smoking organization initially drew Keys' attention to the company's association with the show.

In a letter released by her record company, Sony BMG Music Entertainment, she said she had asked the company to stop the branding.

"I am an unyielding advocate for the well-being of children around the world and do not condone or endorse smoking," she said.

Philip Morris International did not say whether it was demanding its money back, nor reveal how much it had paid to sponsor the event.

"Whether tobacco sponsorship of music events leads to youth smoking is a matter of serious debate," the company said in a statement received Thursday. "Having considered the facts in this specific instance, we have decided to withdraw all branding associated with this concert."

More than 30 percent of Indonesia's 220 million people smoke, making it the fifth-largest tobacco market in the world, according to the World Health Organization.

In the United States, Philip Morris USA and other major tobacco companies are prohibited from sponsorships of concerts, but there are no such regulations in Indonesia. The affiliate, HM Sampoerna, regularly sponsors sports events and pop concerts in Indonesia.

Philip Morris was not the sole sponsor of the concert, but the event is billed as an "A Mild Live Production," suggesting it is a major backer.

With health campaigns taking a toll on cigarette sales in the West, tobacco companies are focusing marketing campaigns on developing countries like Indonesia, behind China, the United States, Russia and Japan.

AP

This June 18, 2008 file photo, Alicia Keys performs at Madison Square Garden in New York. Producers say Keys and Jack White will perform the theme song to next James Bond film.

Keys, White to sing 007 theme tune

LONDON (AP)—It's a double-O duet. Alicia Keys and Jack White have recorded the theme song for the new James Bond film, "Quantum of Solace," producers said Wednesday.

The R&B singer and White Stripes frontman have teamed up for "Another Way to Die," the first duet to be chosen as a Bond theme.

Producers said White has written and produced the song and also plays drums, as well as singing with 11-time Grammy winner Keys.

Producers Michael Wilson and Barbara Broccoli said they were "delighted and pleased to have two such exciting artists as Jack and Alicia, who were inspired by our film to join together their extraordinary talents in creating a unique sound for 'Quantum of Solace.'"

Previous Bond themes have been performed by the likes of Paul McCartney, Duran Duran and Madonna, and each new film's tune always produces intense speculation.

Troubled diva Amy Winehouse had previously been linked to the "Quantum of Solace" theme. But her collaborator Mark Ronson said earlier this year that work on a song for the film had been abandoned because Winehouse was not ready to record.

Other reports had suggested singers Duffy and Leona Lewis were being considered.

"Quantum of Solace" sees Daniel Craig return as suave secret agent 007. It is due for release in Britain on Oct. 31 and around the world in November.

Documents: Boy band promoter sings in murder case

MIAMI (AP)—Lou Pearlman, the former boy band promoter and entrepreneur turned federal inmate, has taken another career turn: police informant.

Pearlman went to authorities with information about a 19-year-old man accused of killing an off-duty Orlando, Fla., police officer in a botched robbery, court documents released Wednesday show.

The 54-year-old founder of the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync said that while in jail, he heard Davin Smith admit fatally shooting Alfred Gordon.

Pearlman's cooperation was first reported by the Orlando Sentinel.

Pearlman recounted several exchanges with Smith, who was held in a separate cell about 15 feet away. Pearlman said Smith and a co-defendant, called "homeboy" throughout the 23-page police interview, were trying to use a stolen bank card when they saw Gordon in the parking lot. After the first card didn't work, they tried to rob Gordon, he recalled Smith saying.

"(Smith) said that this guy was going to pull out his own gun, so Smith shot him," Pearlman said. "He said it happened, it happened so fast, Smith said his homeboy and he didn't know it was a cop. They immediately ran and they didn't, uh, rob the guy. They were afraid of getting caught."

Smith and Hugo Terry, 18, were indicted by a grand jury in October, less than a week after Gordon's murder. The two are charged with first-degree murder with a firearm, attempted robbery with a firearm and robbery with a firearm. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Pearlman

Smith's attorney was out of town Wednesday and did not immediately return a message seeking comment. Terry's attorney, Joy Ragan, said Pearlman's situation could have motivated him to tell authorities anything, true or not.

"Typically in federal cases a person wants to help with as many cases as they can to better their own chances of getting a reduced sentence," Ragan said. "So how much of it Davin Smith actually said and how much of the statement is Lou's own exaggeration I have no way of knowing."

Pearlman is serving a 25-year federal prison sentence after pleading guilty to four counts for running a $300 million stock and investment scam. He was transferred from the Orange County Jail to the federal penitentiary in Atlanta earlier this month.

Pearlman told police he had several contacts with Smith - both direct and overheard. He said the slaying suspect recognized him from the "Making the Band" show on MTV years ago. In turn, Pearlman and other inmates had seen Smith on the news in connection with Gordon's killing. He said Smith considered himself a celebrity who needed a famous attorney.

Pearlman, urged by his lawyers, kept meticulous notes of the exchanges. He said Smith reported using a Ruger 9mm in the killing, and was worried about police retrieving skin from the gun. Pearlman said Smith had been out of jail only a month and a half after serving five years for the nonfatal shooting of another man.

Friend being harassed fears exposing her major client

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: A close friend I'll call "Millie" recently confided that she is being sexually harassed at work. The person is a major client of hers, and she could lose her job if this is brought to light.

I would like to help Millie, but I don't know what to do. Please help me. This is eating away at me.

HURTING FOR MY FRIEND
IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR HURTING: It is important that Millie report what has been happening to her boss. It is her employer's responsibility to see that she is not bothered.

I have long thought that people who use their position of power to sexually harass are either so pathologically narcissistic they can't believe everyone isn't bowled over by their charm (which, of course, is delusional thinking), or so pitifully unattractive and insecure they must bully their target into submission.

Whatever is driving your friend's harasser, it is vital for Millie's emotional well-being that the person is stopped. Laws protect people in the workplace, but only if the harassment is reported.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I would appreciate your perspective on something that has been going on for about five years. When my granddaughter, "Allie," receives a gift, she takes it to her room to open. Allie is no longer a child, Abby. She's an intelligent, attractive college graduate. Later on, she will say thank you for the gift.

When I asked why she won't open the gift when I give it to her, her response was, "I don't like to be watched while I open gifts." This leaves me unable to witness her pleasure and makes me wonder why I spend my time purchasing anything for her. Please give me your reaction.

GIFT-GIVING GRANDMA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

DEAR GRANDMA: You are operating under the assumption that your granddaughter likes the gifts you have chosen. Has it occurred to you that she may take the gifts to open in private because she knows you are waiting for her reaction and finds it intimidating?

My feeling is that you and she should have a frank talk about this, and you should take your cue from the outcome. It'll clear the air.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Am I doomed to be a "jack of all trades"? I'm 21 and can never stick with a job longer than six months. I get bored and start looking for another one.

I have noticed my inability to find satisfaction in anything I do. I pick up and drop hobbies in the span of weeks. I'm currently in college and have switched majors six times. Women drop me because I can't decide on what my "life's work" should be.

I know I'm young, but it feels like the years are going fast. What can I do to find my niche?

A GUY NAMED MIKE IN OHIO

DEAR GUY NAMED MIKE: The first thing to do should be to head to the student health center, explain your problem and ask for an evaluation. Next, stop berating yourself for being indecisive about your career path.

Generations ago, people trained for one career that was supposed to last until retirement. Today, however, workers can expect to change jobs several times over the span of their careers. And that's why a liberal arts education can be helpful, because it exposes students to a wide variety of subjects that can be helpful in the future.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

AP

Comedians Cheech Marin, left, and Tommy Chong answer questions for the media during a news conference announcing their upcoming tour "Cheech & Chong: Light Up America" in West Hollywood, Calif. on Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

Cheech and Chong reunite as feud goes up in smoke

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Their feud finally having gone up in smoke, Cheech and Chong say they're eager to get back on the road for their first comedy tour in more than 25 years.

"We had such a legacy, such a history. We couldn't escape it, even if we tried," Tommy Chong told reporters at a news conference Wednesday at the Troubadour, the Los Angeles nightclub where the pair were discovered more than 35 years ago.

The duo said their "Light Up America" tour will kick off Sept. 12 in Philadelphia.

"It's going to be very theatrical," said Cheech Marin.

If Wednesday's news conference was an indication, it won't spare the pothead humor, either.

"We're definitely still smoking," Chong said when asked.

"I get transfusions now," quipped Marin.

"I like the taste," Chong said. "I'm old fashioned."

Marin told AP Radio earlier this month that he and the 70-year-old Chong had recently decided that if ever they were to reunite the time was now because, "You're not getting any younger and neither am I."

They tossed around some ideas and figured a comedy tour would be "the most fun" and "the least hassle," the 62-year-old Marin said.

Marin and Chong, who broke up amid creative differences, have tried to reunite before, but have always fought too much.

"It takes about three minutes for that to happen, Marin said. "There's this veiled hatred." But he added: "We've kind of resolved that."

During their original run, Marin and Chong released nine comedy albums between 1972 and 1985, were nominated for four Grammy Awards and won one. They also starred in eight feature films, almost always portraying a pair of comical stoners.

"We've gotten to the age where we don't feel like fighting anymore," Marin said, "because the end is a lot closer than the beginning."

Gilberto Gil steps down as Brazil culture minister

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Gilberto Gil stepped down as Brazilian culture minister Wednesday, saying he wanted to dedicate more time to his music and his family.

The Grammy-winning musician, who revolutionized Brazilian music in the 1960s as a founder of the Tropicalism movement, had been culture minister since 2003, when President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva started his first term in office.

Gil

Gil tried to step down twice before but Silva had persuaded him to stay. This time the president accepted his resignation.

"I am leaving the government to dedicate more time to my artistic endeavors and to my family, which is growing with the addition of a new grandchild," Gil, 66, told a news conference.

He said his one complaint from his time in government is that "the ministry did not get the generous budget it deserved."

Since his appointment as culture minister, Gil - who underwent surgery for the removal of two cysts on his vocal cords last October - has divided his time between the political and musical spheres.

Gil and longtime friend Caetano Veloso are credited with inventing the Tropicalism movement, a blend of rock and bossa nova.

Tropicalism eventually influenced such musicians as David Byrne, Paul Simon and Beck, but the political content of its lyrics offended the nation's 1964-1985 military dictatorship. Both Gil and Veloso were jailed in 1968 and lived in exile in London from 1969 to 1972.

Gil has sold millions of records over his 45-year career, and won a Grammy in 1998 for best world music album.

Culture Ministry Executive Secretary Juca Ferreira has been appointed acting culture minister and is expected to be named to the post permanently in early August after Silva returns from the Beijing Olympics.

New York jewelry company sues Wyclef Jean

NEW YORK (AP)—The company founded by the New York businessman known in the hip-hop world as "Jacob the Jeweler" has sued Wyclef Jean, claiming he owes money for watches and jewelry he bought.

Jacob and Company Incorporated says in Manhattan court papers filed Tuesday that the hip-hop star bought several items between March 2002 and January 2006 for $765,100. The company says Jean still owes $319,680, despite "repeated demands for payment."

Several representatives for Jean didn't immediately respond to e-mails requesting comment.

The company's founder, Jacob Arabov, was sentenced in June to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for lying to investigators of a multistate drug ring. Arabov was known as the "king of bling" to customers who included Madonna, Elton John and Kanye West.

AP

In this July 24, 2007 file photo, Ed McMahon arrives at the premiere of The Simpsons Movie in Los Angeles.

NY lawsuit says Ed McMahon owes another $275,000

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York lawsuit claims Ed McMahon owes lawyers more than $275,000 for handling his daughter's divorce. The suit says the former "Tonight Show" sidekick and his wife hired Hartman & Craven and the Sarcone Law Firm to represent his daughter, Linda Schmerge. It was filed Wednesday in Manhattan, where she lives.

McMahon's attorney did not return a a telephone message Wednesday.

McMahon revealed last month he was fighting foreclosure after falling $644,000 behind on mortgage payments on Beverly Hills, Calif., home. He also faces a lawsuit by Citibank, which says it's trying to recoup nearly $200,000 it loaned him and his wife.

McMahon has sued a hospital, two doctors and a homeowner over a neck injury he says left him unable to work.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS?
NOPE. WHY?
OH, NO REASON. I WAS JUST CURIOUS.
I SURE LIKE SUMMER VACATION.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
8/1

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ PAID FOR OUR DATE LAST NIGHT
THAT MADE ME FEEL A LITTLE WEIRD
IT WAS A GOOD WEIRD, THOUGH
FREE WEIRD IS A GOOD WEIRD
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Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
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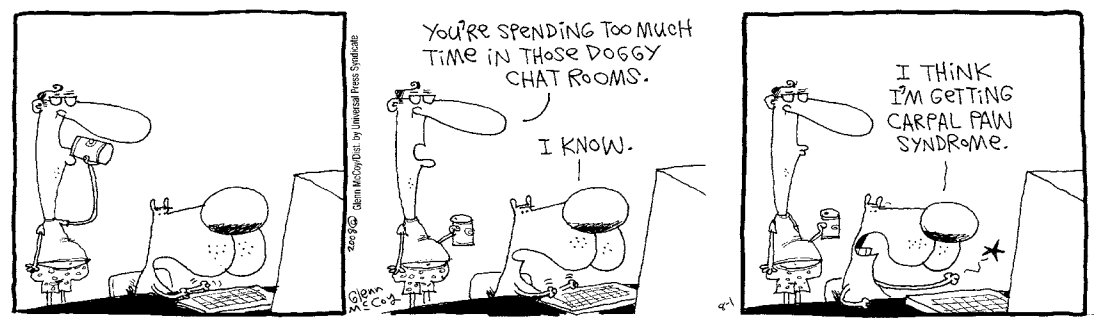
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


You're spending too much time in those doggy chat rooms.
I know.
I think I'm getting carpal pain syndrome.
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8/1

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

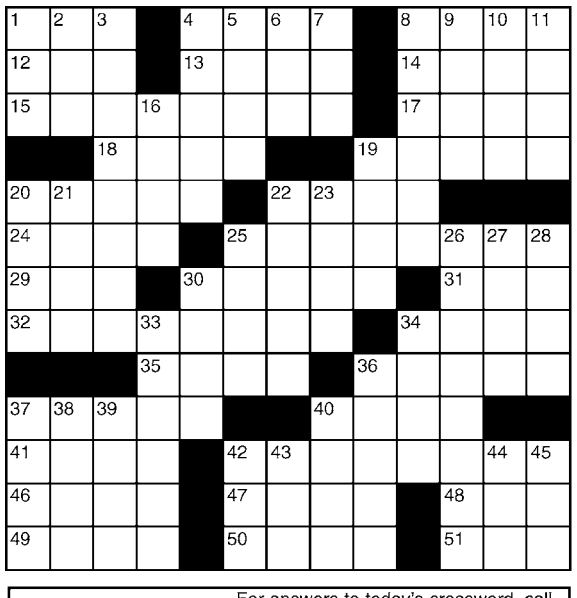
ACROSS
1 River structure
4 Hackman or Rayburn
8 Got a glimpse of
12 Sapporo sash
13 Finished
14 Give a makeover to
15 BBQ wood
17 Use a teaspoon
18 Wrap, as a flag
19 Clergy counterpart
20 Homeric narrative
22 Hearts, for one
24 Make aspic
25 Cretaceous or Jurassic
29 Time of your life?
30 Refuge
31 Popular card game
32 Answering machine's info
34 Impale
35 Doppelganger
36 "Oh, God" star
37 Trembled
40 Kansas city
41 Frau's mate
42 Crazy (Var.)
46 Incite
47 Neighbor of Sask.
48 Conclusion
49 Santa's sackful
50 Satiate
51 Pair on stage

DOWN
1 Comic DeLuise
2 Honest politician
3 Puts in the wrong folder
4 Pumpkin or cucumber
5 Satan's field
6 Trawler need
7 Prior to
8 Poor substitute
9 Bigfoot's cousin
10 Tend texts
11 Hunky- —
16 Campus area
19 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.
20 Shiite leader
21 Theater box
22 Early evening
23 Works with
25 Creche trio
26 Not just peeved
27 — instant
28 Corn eaters' castoffs
30 Warmonger
33 Mall units
34 Enterprise officer
36 Heidi of TV's "Hotel"
37 Close
38 Medal earner
39 Rampant revelry
40 Ratio phrase
42 PC alternative
43 Right angle
44 Wildebeest
45 Tokyo, once

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	R	O	S	■	A	L	P	■	S	A	K	E
R	O	V	E	■	L	E	A	■	K	N	I	T
I	M	A	M	■	L	I	P	■	U	T	A	H
C	A	L	I	C	O	■	Y	A	L	E	■	■
■	■	■	P	O	W	E	R	P	L	A	N	T
S	O	R	R	Y	■	Q	U	E	■	T	E	A
O	R	E	O	■	B	U	S	■	M	E	A	D
P	D	Q	■	M	I	A	■	A	O	R	T	A
H	O	U	S	E	P	L	A	N	T	■	■	■
■	■	I	T	L	■	■	S	T	I	N	G	S
S	I	R	E	■	A	L	I	■	V	E	A	L
I	D	E	A	■	N	O	D	■	E	X	P	O
T	O	D	D	■	E	Y	E	■	S	T	E	W

Yesterday's answer 8-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tempestt Bledsoe, 35; Adam Duritz, 44; Coolio, 45; Tom Leykis, 52

Happy Birthday: This is your time to set things up and prepare to perform. You will find your way into circles and networking groups that can help you make the changes needed to advance. Sudden influences will alter the way you do things and why. Your timing and ability to take a position of leadership will be recognized. Your numbers are 9, 18, 27, 33, 41, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Travel to a place that can provide you with the type of entertainment you enjoy. A makeover will boost your confidence and give you a fresh new look. A discussion with someone you know through work will lead to a change of position. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It's a no-win day, so don't take anything said or done by others to heart. The more you concentrate on picking up skills or knowledge, the further ahead you will be. A friend or family member may not be telling the truth. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Love is on the rise. Minor adjustments made at home will add to your comfort. Property or any long-term investment will be worth your while. Saving for the future is one of the smartest things you can do. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make a big splash with whatever you do today and you will impress the right people. A promotion or offer may be mentioned but get it in writing. A business deal, interview or partnership are looking positive. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be in control and quite able to outdo or outmaneuver anyone. You will have everything in place for whatever challenge comes your way. Your entertaining nature may get you into trouble if you are too flirtatious. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep whatever you are doing a secret for the time being. If you are too vocal, someone will steal your idea or disrupt your plans. Focus on the future but rely on past experience to make the right choices. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be a take-charge person—show your talent and be admired. Network all you can and you will sway many people to follow your thinking. New friendships will develop if you participate in activities, events or causes you believe in. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Avoid conflict, questions and anyone who wants to make you look bad. The more diverse you are, the harder it will be for others to know what you'll do next. The element of surprise will help you win any battles you face. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your ability to manipulate will enable you to go the distance and pick and choose what you want. A contract can be drawn up and a commitment made. Money is heading your way but don't spend it before it arrives. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It will take a little more finesse to get what you want. Entertain the people around you and no one will question your motives. A change in career may surprise others but, for you, it's just another step toward a long-term goal. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Partnerships may be dicey if you haven't spelled out what you expect and what you have to offer. Be upfront and honest so you can find out where you stand and whether you should move on. With the right choices, happiness is within reach. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Tie up loose ends before indulging in entertainment and good times. If you leave anything undone, someone will dismantle your plans or make you look bad. Don't give anyone a reason to think you have been irresponsible. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dynamic and entertaining, able to outlast and outdo everyone. You aspire to living life to its fullest. You are outgoing, challenging and confident.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	9		4		1	
		6	7					
		1				3		4
								6
	2			9			3	
7								
3		4				2		
					3	7		
	8		1		2	6		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	2	1	8	5	6	4	7	3
6	3	8	7	1	4	5	2	9
7	4	5	3	9	2	8	1	6
4	5	9	6	7	3	1	8	2
3	6	2	1	4	8	7	9	5
8	1	7	9	2	5	3	6	4
2	9	3	5	8	7	6	4	1
1	7	6	4	3	9	2	5	8
5	8	4	2	6	1	9	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS **Solution: 7 letters**

Y	A	W	N	E	F	S	L	M	U	I	D	A	T	S
E	S	F	I	N	A	L	S	Y	A	L	P	F	E	E
U	S	F	J	N	A	A	I	(L)	E	R	I	E	M	T
L	S	E	F	B	S	T	L	A	(O)	E	U	V	L	E
B	O	S	T	O	N	O	V	I	L	(G)	N	I	E	L
S	E	O	O	I	Y	T	E	D	A	E	(O)	C	H	H
E	O	L	I	M	R	A	R	E	S	T	S	T	I	T
F	X	T	I	H	Y	O	L	M	N	T	R	O	L	A
R	R	P	N	C	C	A	V	P	A	E	E	R	O	R
E	S	I	L	E	H	S	R	A	F	L	K	I	I	A
C	T	E	V	O	L	I	U	D	F	L	C	O	P	L
O	A	I	Y	A	S	A	K	R	A	I	I	U	A	U
R	R	D	A	E	L	I	T	S	B	G	N	S	T	P
D	S	G	A	M	E	S	V	S	T	A	E	S	S	O
S	R	E	Y	A	L	P	S	E	L	I	F	O	R	P

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Athletes, Belichik, Blue, Boston, Bruschi, Drive, Explosive, Fans, Favorites, Fenway, Field, Finals, Football, Games, Gillette, Helmet, Lead, League, Logo, Media, Moss, Nickerson, Pats, Pioli, Players, Playoffs, Plays, Popular, Profiles, Records, Rivals, Seats, Silver, Stadium, Stars, Talent, Totals, Victorious, Wins, Yardage

Yesterday's Answer: Versailles

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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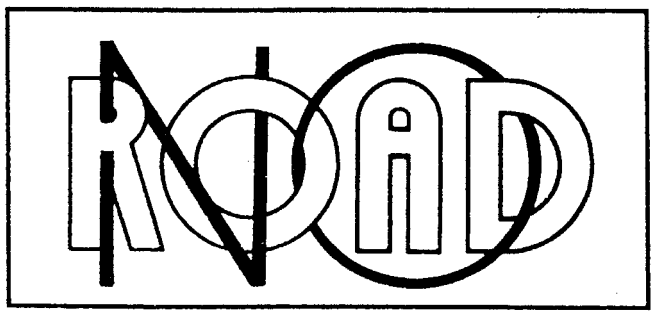

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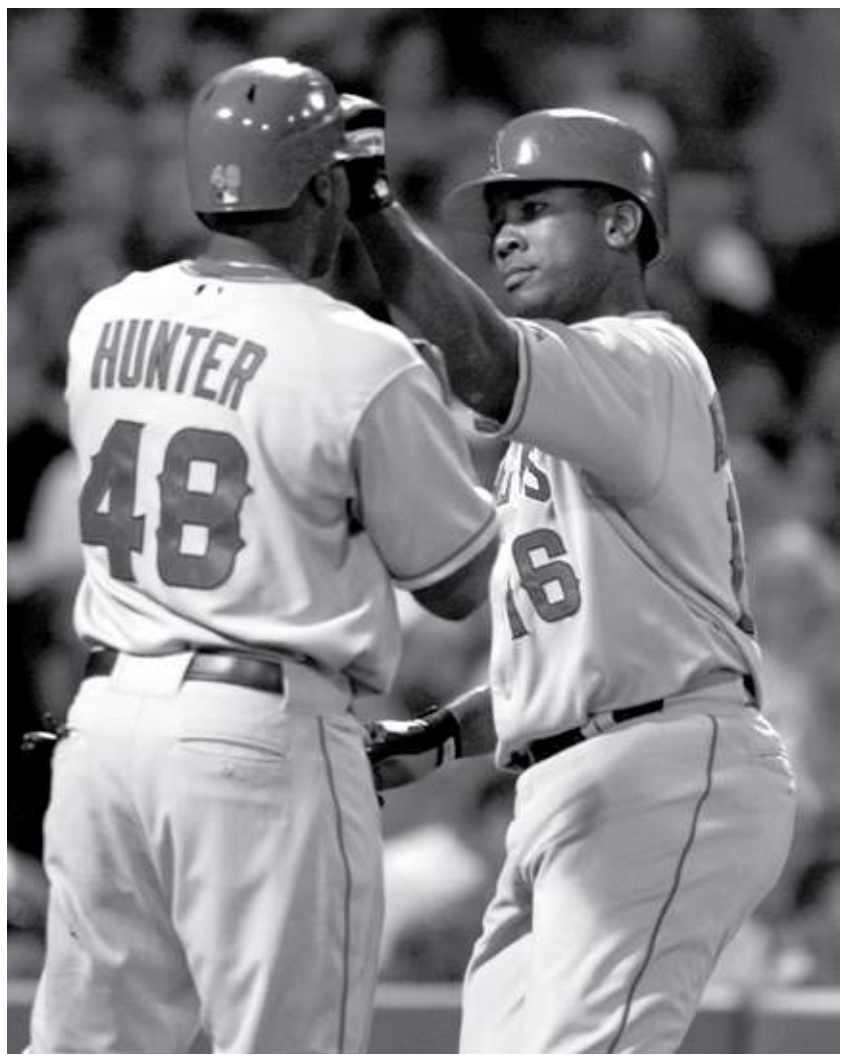
Angels keep rolling with 9-2 win vs. Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)—Garret Anderson went 4-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs, Joe Saunders earned his 14th win and the Los Angeles Angels swept the Boston Red Sox 9-2 in the American League on Wednesday.

It was the second three-game sweep in two weeks by the Angels over the Red Sox, who showed little spark. Reports of trade talks focusing on a disgruntled Manny Ramirez didn't make the game any better for Boston.

The Angels improved Major League Baseball's best record to 67-40 by finishing 8-1 against Boston this season.



AP

Los Angeles Angels' Garret Anderson, right, is congratulated by Torii Hunter (48) after hitting a two-run homer against the Boston Red Sox in the sixth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

White Sox 8, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Carlos Quentin had a home run and four RBIs, Gavin Floyd (11-6) held Minnesota to one run and five hits over 7 2-3 innings, and Alexei Ramirez added a three-run homer for Chicago.

Livan Hernandez (10-8) allowed a solo shot to Quentin with two outs in the first, and the All-Star padded Chicago's lead with a three-run double in the fourth. Hernandez dropped to 8-2 at the Metrodome this year after giving up nine hits, five runs and two walks.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Carlos Pena homered and Edwin Jackson won consecutive starts for the first time since April as Tampa Bay beat Toronto. Jackson (7-7) gave up two runs and seven hits in five innings.

Making his major league debut, Toronto right-hander Scott Richmond (0-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Carl Crawford put Tampa Bay in front with an RBI triple in the first. Lyle Overbay's two-run homer in the bottom half put Toronto up 2-1. Pena tied it with a leadoff homer in the fourth, his 18th. The winning run was scored that inning on a double play grounder by Gabe Gross.

Yankees 13, Orioles 3

At New York, Bobby Abreu hit two homers and Alex Rodriguez also went deep as New York avoided a first three-game sweep by Baltimore at Yankee Stadium since 1986.

Abreu also doubled and had three RBIs as the designated hitter. Rodriguez and Xavier Nady both had two hits for the Yankees.

Royals 4, Athletics 3, 10 innings

At Oakland, California, Jose Guillen drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th and Kansas City completed its first three-game sweep in Oakland in 20 years.

The Royals last swept the A's in a series in 1999 in Kansas City, but had not done so in Oakland since June 1988.

Rangers 4, Mariners 3

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton hit his team-leading 25th homer and collected his major league-best 104th RBI for Texas.

Michael Young had the go-ahead RBI with a pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the eighth and rookie Brandon Boggs homered for the Rangers, who have won seven of their last nine against Seattle.

Tigers 14, Indians 12, 13 innings

At Cleveland, Kelly Shoppach tied a major league record with five extra-base hits, including a game-tying homer in the ninth, but it came in a losing effort as Detroit edged Cleveland.

Shoppach had two homers, three doubles and drove in three runs as the eighth player to get five extra-base hits in a game. Shawn Green of the Los Angeles Dodgers last accomplished the feat with four homers and a double on May 23, 2002.

Shoppach was struck out by Casey Fossum with the bases loaded and no outs in the 12th.

Phillies 8, Nationals 5

At Washington, Chase Utley homered in a five-run fifth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Washington Nationals to move back atop the National League East with its fourth straight victory.

Shane Victorino had three hits and three RBIs, including a solo homer, to help 45-year-old Jamie Moyer (10-6) win his third straight decision. Moyer went six innings, allowing three runs—on first-inning homers by Willie Harris and Jesus Flores—and six hits.

Marlins 7, Mets 5

At Miami, Josh Johnson pitched 6 2-3 innings for his first victory in almost two years for Florida.

Jeremy Hermida and Cody Ross both tripled in a five-run fourth inning against Mike Pelfrey (9-7), who lost for the first time in his past eight decisions.

Cardinals 7, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Chris Carpenter pitched four solid innings in his first start since April 2007 for St. Louis.

Albert Pujols drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh for the Cardinals and Joe Mather put the game out of reach with a two-run homer in the eighth.

Rockies 7, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Aaron Cook won his 14th game and Troy Tulowitzki had three hits as Colorado avoided a sweep.

Chris Iannetta hit a three-run homer and Garrett Atkins, Matt Holliday and Willy Taveras had two hits each for Colorado, which improved to 10-3 since the All-Star break.

Cubs 7, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Ryan Dempster pitched seven superb innings, Ryan Theriot tripled to break open a close game and Chicago beat Milwaukee again.

Dempster (12-4) struck out nine and gave up one run and five hits. He won consecutive road starts in the same season for the first time since 2001.

The Brewers have lost a season-high four straight at home. Chicago has handled Milwaukee's top starters so far, getting the better of reigning AL Cy Young winner CC Sabathia on Monday, four-time All-Star Ben Sheets on Tuesday and emerging left-hander Manny Parra (9-4) on Wednesday.

Reds 9, Astros 5

At Houston, Adam Dunn homered twice, Ken Griffey Jr. added a three-run shot and Cincinnati snapped an eight-game losing streak against Houston.

Edinson Volquez (13-4) allowed one earned run and six hits, but the Astros chased him in the seventh with four unearned runs after two errors by shortstop Jeff Keppinger. Volquez struck out five as the Reds ended a five-game overall losing streak.

Dunn recorded his second multihomer game of the month—and season—and Edwin Encarnacion added a solo shot for the Reds.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 3

At San Diego, Dan Haren pitched seven solid innings and Chad Tracy and Mark Reynolds drove in two runs each as Arizona downed San Diego.

Haren (11-5) gave up a leadoff home run to Jody Gerut, but went on to win his third straight start.

The NL West leaders are 5-1 on a 10-game road trip that concludes with a four-game series against second-place Los Angeles that begins Thursday night.

Dodgers 4, Giants 0

At Los Angeles, Chad Billingsley pitched a five-hitter for his first career shutout and Matt Kemp extended his hitting streak to 17 games as Los Angeles blanked San Francisco to move above .500 for the first time since May 27.

Billingsley (11-9) walked none and struck out eight in the second complete game of his career. Billingsley, who has won seven of his last nine starts, nearly lost his shutout with two outs in the ninth when Jose Castillo doubled and Randy Winn followed with a single. But left fielder Andre Ethier threw out Castillo at the plate to end the game.

Tigers trade catcher Ivan Rodriguez to Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—The Detroit Tigers sent veteran catcher Ivan Rodriguez to the New York Yankees for hard-throwing reliever Kyle Farnsworth on Wednesday, a trade that filled glaring holes for both contenders.

Rodriguez, a 14-time All-Star in the option year of a $50 million deal he signed with the Tigers in February 2004, will step into the hole in the Yankees' lineup created by Jorge Posada's shoulder injury. Posada had arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder Wednesday and is out for the season.

"You have to give up to get," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "You have to do the balancing act."

Tigers president Dave Dombrowski said the team didn't want to trade Rodriguez, but had bigger needs in the bullpen. The two teams began discussing the deal early Wednesday and had it wrapped up about six hours later, just as the Yankees were finishing off a 13-3 win over the Orioles.

"It's going to be very exciting. They are in the race and I'm ready to do my job," Rodriguez said.

The Yankees expect Rodriguez to join the team on Thursday, when they start a four-game series against the Los Angeles Angels.

"First let me say that Pudge has done an outstanding job for us," Dombrowski told reporters before Detroit played the Cleveland Indians. "I'm sure he was very surprised by this, but for him this is a good situation. He's going to New York City, and they are in contention."

AP

Catcher Ivan Rodriguez talks to reporters before a baseball game between the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Wednesday, July 30, 2008, after learning he had been traded to the New York Yankees for Kyle Farnsworth.

The 36-year-old Rodriguez, who has won the Gold Glove award 13 times, was hitting .295 with five homers in 82 games this season.

"Pudge had a no-trade clause and he waived it today to go to New York," Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, told The Associated Press on Wednesday afternoon. "Pudge has always wanted to play in New York and Detroit felt it needed a relief pitcher, so both sides were able to get what they wanted to some degree."

The Yankees made their second deal in the week leading up to Thursday's trade deadline. On Friday, the Yankees acquired outfielder Xavier Nady and left-hander Damaso Marte from the Pittsburgh Pirates for four minor leaguers.

Farnsworth, an inconsistent part of the Yankees' bullpen for the past three seasons, was 1-2 with a 3.65 ERA in 45 games for New York. He joins a bullpen badly in need of reinforcements, three days after veteran Todd Jones was removed from the closer role in Detroit.

"It's always hard, no matter what," Farnsworth said in the Yankees' clubhouse. "Just one of those things you have to deal with."

Packers president meets with Favre and his agent

AP

Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy answer a question about quarteback Brett Favre at NFL football training camp Tuesday, July 29, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Green Bay Packers president Mark Murphy traveled to Mississippi to meet with quarterback Brett Favre and his agent James "Bus" Cook on Wednesday, in an apparent attempt to talk Favre out of reporting to camp later this week.

Meanwhile, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell took no action on Favre's request for reinstatement Wednesday - giving the sides more time to work out a resolution.

"The commissioner is taking no action today," league officials said in a statement issued by NFL spokesman Greg Aiello. "He wants to give both the Packers and Brett an appropriate amount of time to make decisions, including decisions impacting the team's roster and salary cap. When Brett is reinstated by the commissioner, we will announce it."

Cook told reporters outside his office in Hattiesburg, Miss., that Favre, who has been throwing to players at a nearby high school to stay in shape, could be in Green Bay on Friday.

"He would love to go back in Green Bay," Cook said, in comments broadcast by ESPNEWS. "I mean, that's why he started working out. But right now, it looks like he'll be the quarterback at Oak Grove High School."

Murphy, who took over as the team's president and CEO in January, issued a statement upon returning to Green Bay.

"I was in Hattiesburg today and had a nice visit with Brett Favre," Murphy said. "We discussed a number of topics not related to football, including Brett's long-term relationship with the Packers. I consider our conversation to be confidential and am going to be respectful of Brett and his family and keep the details private.

"Ted (Thompson, Green Bay's general manager) and Mike (McCarthy, the coach) are going to continue to work on the football side of this issue. They have my full support."

The sidelines at Packers practice Wednesday night were buzzing with a question: Did the Packers offer to pay Favre to stay retired?

WTMJ television in Milwaukee reported the team offered Favre several million dollars to stay retired, and the Green Bay Press-Gazette reported on its Web site that the team offered Favre "a substantial salary" to stay away. Both reports cited sources close to Favre.

Murphy was not available to reporters Wednesday night. McCarthy spoke after the night practice, but hadn't talked to Murphy.

"I don't have any information, I'm just going to be up front with you," McCarthy said. "I haven't talked to Mark Murphy. They just told me about the story that's out there. Sorry, don't have anything for you. Wish I did."

The Packers don't have a full public practice scheduled for Thursday. Players will lift weights, attend meetings and review plays. They'll also hear from a guest speaker: former Bush White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

"And he was booked a long time ago," McCarthy said, jokingly heading off any questions about the team turning to a public relations expert with damage control experience.

Still, it would be hard to blame Packers staffers if they pulled Fleischer aside for a few pointers.

"We're going to get our money's worth," McCarthy quipped.

Nearly five months after his tearful retirement news conference in March, Favre filed for reinstatement with the NFL on Tuesday. He now is awaiting approval from Goodell.

Once he is reinstated, the Packers will have 24 hours to release him or return him to their active roster. The team has ruled out releasing Favre, fearing he would immediately sign with division rival Minnesota.

The Packers also could trade Favre, although no deal appeared imminent. The Packers hold Favre's rights until his contract expires after the 2010 season.

Despite the apparent purpose of Murphy's trip, McCarthy reiterated Wednesday that Favre "absolutely" was still welcome in Packers camp. Team officials have made it clear, both publicly and to Favre, that he would no longer be the starter if he returned to the team.

"I've said it, and I'll just say it again: He was a big part of our history, and he can reinstate, come here and be part of our future," McCarthy said.

Wide receiver Donald Driver, one of Favre's few remaining close friends on a roster full of young players, seemed skeptical that Favre's position with the team would really be much different.

"He's going to have the same role he's always had," Driver said. "He's always been a leader in this locker room, so I don't think that's going to change. Like I said, you guys are worried more about the issue than we are. We know what he's going to come in and do. He's always been a leader in the locker room, he's going to continue being the leader."

McCarthy acknowledged that the ongoing saga puts Aaron Rodgers in a unique situation, but said Rodgers is handling the situation well. Rodgers has been solid in his first few days of camp, although the Packers' defense seems to be ahead of the offense in the first week of camp.

Packers defensive end Aaron Kampman, Rodgers' close friend and the quarterback's roommate in training camp, said Rodgers is a "tough guy" who will only get tougher under scrutiny.

"He's a grown man," Kampman said. "He's handling it very well. He's done tremendous. I think he continues to validate he's got some special stuff inside of him."

Kampman wasn't sure if Favre really would show up later this week, but he knew one thing for sure: It's time for the drama to end.

"I guess the question is not so much, would he be welcome, but will he come back? We don't know that yet," Kampman said. "Again, it's kind of speculative on our part. The day is Friday, so we'll see what happens when that comes. The big picture is, really, I think both parties want to move forward, both parties want a resolution. This is getting very drawn out, from both sides, and quite frankly I think everyone wants it to be over."

Sore elbow sidelines Raiders quarterback JaMarcus Russell

NAPA, Calif. (AP)—JaMarcus Russell was held out of team drills for the second straight practice Wednesday because his throwing elbow was still sore after banging it off the helmet of Darren McFadden.

The Oakland Raiders hoped their franchise quarterback would be healthy enough to practice a day after hurting his elbow. He did some individual drills, working on footwork and tossing a few passes lightly.

But he did not show off his strong arm and on his only long pass of the day he just tossed it high in the air to receiver Todd Watkins instead of throwing it on a line.

Shortly after that, trainer Rod Martin talked to the coaching staff and Russell only watched for the remainder of the day with ice wrapped around the elbow.

"We wanted to watch him throw, and our trainers watched him," coach Lane Kiffin said. "They just felt that he was struggling a little bit with it. He wanted to keep going. We pulled him out."

Kiffin said he didn't feel this injury would be a long-term issue for Russell, and X-rays showed no problems with the elbow.

Russell said he came out to practice early hoping to loosen up the elbow, but never felt quite right once the session started.

"Just a little soreness from the other day," he said. "I bumped Darren's helmet while he was going to block, kind of full force as I was throwing. I kind of did what I can right now."

Russell stayed on the field after practice and did footwork drills with offensive coordinator Greg Knapp.

Russell said he hoped to be back throwing Friday when the Raiders hold two practices. Kiffin said the team will put Russell through some on-field tests at the beginning of practice to see if he is ready to go full bore.

"I'm going to try and get out and practice as much as I can," Russell said. "I really haven't made any decisions about it yet."

After missing all of training camp a year ago in a contract dispute, Russell is being given as much work as possible this summer in order to be ready for the season.

Russell didn't get the chance to show much as a rookie after being the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft. He played catch-up after signing his $61 million contract in the second week of the season. He didn't step on the field until December, playing as a reserve in three games before starting the season finale against San Diego.

The Raiders spent Wednesday's team session working on late-game situations that will be important for Russell to master once the season begins.

"All these scenarios for him are so important, and the game scenarios, the two-minute situations we went through today," Kiffin said. "He got the mental reps, but it's not the same as the physical reps."

Andrew Walter and Marques Tuiasosopo split time at quarterback as they battle for the backup position behind Russell.

Both quarterbacks struggled at times, with Tuiasosopo throwing a pair of interceptions during seven-on-seven drills, and Walter being picked off by DeAngelo Hall on the first play of a late-game drive.

"We do have a competition for our second spot at quarterback. So that's the positive way of looking at it, those guys are getting reps," Kiffin said. "But that's not what we want or need right now. We need to get our No. 1 guy in there, especially with so many new pieces around him—with the new left tackle, the new back, new receivers. Every day's very valuable for him."

Penn State DTs Baker, Taylor kicked off team

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Penn State defensive tackles Chris Baker and Phil Taylor, who were involved in off-field fights last year, have been kicked off the team by coach Joe Paterno.

Team spokesman Jeff Nelson said Wednesday no information was available on why they were dismissed.

Baker and Taylor were disciplined by the school and Paterno for the fights last year.

Baker was sentenced to two years' probation in Centre County court in May for his role in two separate fights. He was allowed to work out with the team.

Taylor was sentenced to one year of probation for his role in a campus fight. He was not scheduled to rejoin the Nittany Lions until Aug. 16.

Beijing pollution index shows improvement

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing's pollution levels are at their lowest since authorities took measures to address athletes' concerns about air quality ahead of the Olympic Games, and officials Thursday outlined additional plans if skies don't clear up further.

A cooling wind and some rain helped sweep away pollutants and gave Beijingers a respite from the sultry heat and humidity that had cloaked the city for days.

The polluted skies over the Olympic host city have been one of the biggest worries for Olympics organizers. The concerns prompted Beijing officials to institute drastic measures earlier this month, included pulling half the city's 3.3 million vehicles off the roads, halting most construction and closing some factories in the capital and surrounding provinces.

The measures are having the desired effect, Du Shaozhong, deputy director of Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau, told The Associated Press in an interview.

"The daily data since July 20 shows an improvement in air quality. It reflects the results since we restricted traffic and stopped heavy-polluting factories and construction," he said. "That's why we say the measures have been effective."

Athletes participating in the Aug. 8-24 games have raised concerns about the impact of the city's pollution on their health and their performance from the start. Some of the 10,500 Olympic athletes began arriving in large numbers this week—though others headed to train in neighboring South Korea, Japan and other places to avoid Beijing's air for as long as possible.

A World Bank study found China is home to 16 of the 20 worst cities for air quality. Three-quarters of the water flowing through urban areas is unsuitable for drinking or fishing.

Some experts argue that weather, not the curbs, are largely to thank for the cleaner air.

A public notice posted Thursday on the government's Web site said once the games begin, additional contingency measures will kick in if authorities decide the air quality had not improved enough.

The emergency measures include shutting more than 200 additional factories and further restricting vehicles across Beijing, Tianjin city and surrounding Hebei province.

In addition, all construction sites across Beijing would be halted.

"If there are unfavorable weather conditions, and the air quality is forecast to not to meet the standards in the following 48 hours, the operating commanding center would suggest the contingency plans be initiated," the notice said.

The air pollution index dropped to 44 on Wednesday, less than half what it was a day earlier, and the lowest since July 20 when the measures were implemented.

Du said that seven of the last 11 days have met the national standard for air quality, while four did not. China considers any reading below 100 to be acceptable, a so-called "blue sky day."

A reading below 50 is considered good and between 51 to 100 is moderate. But critics say even moderate levels are still above the World Health Organization's guidelines for healthy air.

The other four days—from Thursday to Sunday—had readings of 113, 110, 118, and 113, levels classified as unhealthy for sensitive groups. On those days, Beijing had sweltering temperatures and a thick, grayish haze that reduced skyscrapers to ghostly outlines.

Du said a combination of heat, high humidity and little wind created conditions that made it difficult to disperse major airborne pollutants—a mix of construction dust, vehicle exhaust and factory emissions and power plant fumes.

The extreme weather conditions were "most unfortunate" because Du was holding news conferences on the environmental measures during those days, he said.

"I was being asked questions, especially from reporters who had just arrived. It was almost impossible for them to believe that Beijing can have blue sky days," he said.

A tropical storm that hit southeastern China earlier this week brought strong winds and some rain, helping clear skies and lower temperatures by Tuesday. It also highlighted how much weather plays a part in curbing pollution. By late Wednesday afternoon, the haze had returned.

"When there's favorable weather conditions—when you have rain or wind—pollution levels will be much lower, regardless of other measures," said Steven Andrews, an independent environmental consultant based in Washington. Andrews has raised questions in the past about whether Beijing manipulated its environmental data by moving monitoring stations to less-polluted areas and changing the way it measures pollutants.

"The real issue is how it will change in the next couple days. If it doesn't rain, how fast will the numbers rise again?" he said.

At least one top athlete is staying away from the games because of air pollution. Famed Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie, an asthmatic, decided to pull out of the marathon event, citing health concerns. The International Olympic Committee has said endurance sports longer than an hour may be delayed if air quality is not adequate.

On Sunday, the opening ceremony of the Athletes' Village came against a backdrop of thick gray haze. The housing complex itself was invisible from the nearby main Olympic Green.

The USOC is providing its 600-plus athletes with special air masks, which they have the option of wearing out on the streets. The masks are not intended to be worn during training or competition but some athletes have said they are considering wearing them.

New Zealand's athletes have been issued face masks as part of their standard team equipment while team managers have advised athletes to wear masks around the Olympic village but not during competition. Japan distributed masks normally used on construction sites to its national team.

Bobcats, Okafor agree on 6-year deal worth $72M

The Charlotte Bobcats ended a year of uncertainty with top rebounder and shot blocker Emeka Okafor on Tuesday by coming to terms on a six-year, $72 million deal with the restricted free agent.

The move comes a year after Okafor turned down a contract for similar money and assures new coach Larry Brown will have the team's top inside presence when he begins his record ninth NBA coaching job in the fall.

"It was very important for us to get a deal done," general manager Rod Higgins said. "He creates a sense of security around the basket for us. He's a guy that I think his skills are still developing in a lot of ways. Having Larry as our head coach now, Emeka will benefit having a great coach to teach him."

Higgins confirmed the deal Tuesday morning after ESPN.com first reported late Monday that the two sides were close to an agreement. Higgins said Okafor should sign the deal in the next few days.

Okafor was the second overall pick in 2004 and the expansion Bobcats' first draft pick. He turned down Charlotte's offer of $12 million a year last year, but settled on the same figure a year later.

Few other teams have enough salary-cap space to offer restricted free agents big money. Many, including Andre Iguodala of Philadelphia, Josh Smith of Atlanta and Luol Deng of Chicago, remain unsigned.

Okafor could have accepted a one-year qualifying offer worth about $7.1 million and became an unrestricted free agent next year, meaning the Bobcats would get nothing in return if he left. But Okafor decided to accept the security of a long-term contract after Charlotte sweetened its offer.

Okafor's deal is similar to contracts given this offseason to big men Andrew Bogut of Milwaukee and Andris Biedrins of Golden State. But it marks the biggest player contract owner Bob Johnson has agreed to pay since he bought the team.

"It's unfortunate when people criticize our ownership. Bob has been very supportive of what we want to do," Higgins said. "Last year we brought in Jason Richardson and signed (Gerald) Wallace. We're continuing to bring in very good talent. Securing Emeka just shows that our ownership and Bob are committed."

Okafor averaged 13.8 points and 10.7 rebounds a game last season, the fourth consecutive year he's averaged a double-double. Okafor also led the team in blocked shots (1.7 per game) and field-goal percentage (53.5). Brown had said it was critical they retain Okafor for his defense and inside presence on a team that struggled to rebound last season.

Okafor said during the last week of the regular season that he wanted to remain a Bobcat, but he clearly had a strained relationship with coach Sam Vincent. Managing partner Michael Jordan fired Vincent after Charlotte finished 32-50 in his only season.

Brown coached Okafor, but played him little, on the disappointing bronze-

Express on verge of first-ever PBA Finals stint

MANILA, Philippines—Just one more push, and Air21 could finally achieve a first-ever Finals appearance in the Philippine Basketball Association.

The Express rebounded strong from a heartbreaker of a loss Sunday, outworking and outmaneuvering the Magnolia Beverage Masters for a 92-82 victory and the pivotal 3-2 lead in their 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference best-of-seven semifinal showdown at the Araneta Coliseum Wednesday.

Stalled the last time by a clutch shot from Amal McCaskill, the Express got back on track by putting up their most aggressive performance in the series thus far, catching up the Beverage Masters by surprise.

Taking the lead in the series after five games, the Express can close it out in Game Six at the Cuneta Astrodome Friday or in a deciding Game Seven in the same venue Sunday.

"We really worked hard to build a big lead early. We can't win every time on a last-second shot by Steven (Thomas) or in a last-second defensive gem by Arwind (Santos)," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol.

"But the series is not yet over. We can't afford to relax if we're to finish the job and give the franchise its first ever PBA Finals stint," Perasol added.

"We need to continue playing Air21 basketball if we're to finish them off Friday. Magnolia is a very good team. It has talented players," said Air21 import Steven Thomas.

Looking to arrange a fourth title showdown with the Barangay Ginebra Kings, the Beverage Masters can only salvage their bid with two straight wins against the Express who have gone 5-2 in their duels the entire tourney.

"We can't count them out just yet. We have to take it one game at a time," said Thomas, himself on the verge of a first championship series in his basketball career. He's never experienced playing in the Finals back in the US.

Thomas logged minimal numbers compared to those churned out by McCaskill but the entire Air21 team put better efforts than Magnolia.

Too bad for the Beverage Masters, they lost Dondon Hontiveros early in the game on a sprained ankle.

"Personally, I wish Dondon well. If ever we complete a win, I don't want our achievement tainted by the absence of a key Magnolia player," said Perasol.

Gary David scored 20 points to pace the Express, who also drew double-digit outputs from Ranidel de Ocampo, Homer Se, Arwind Santos and Thomas.

"If you notice, our locals have been doing the job. They're winning without me. I'm just there communicating," said Thomas.

Perasol, however, stressed Thomas' mere presence makes his teammates better.

"He's not scoring much but his presence makes his teammates confident," said the soft-spoken Air21 mentor of his hardworking import.

The Express seized the early initiative and took the half at 49-40, using aggressiveness to make up for a mediocre shooting.

Santos and De Ocampo fired 10 points apiece in the first half, pacing the Express who led by as many as 14 points at 36-22 despite a mere 38.8 percent shooting against the Beverage Masters' 50 percent clip.

The Express cashed in on hustle plays, outscoring the Beverage Masters by 17, 26-9, on points off turnovers.

Air21 92 – David 20, De Ocampo 18, Se 15, Thomas 12, Santos 12, Arboleda 6, Cruz 5, Espinas 2, Sotto 2, Kramer 0, Canaleta 0, Billones 0.

Magnolia 82 – McCaskill 23, Tugade 15, Pena 13, Hontiveros 7, Gonzales 6, Cortez 6, Racela 6, Ildefonso 3, Calaguio 2, Pingris 1, Seigle 0.

Quarterscores: 31-20, 49-40, 74-61, 92-82. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

RON

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cold was not an issue for Villafria in the actual marathon.

He said since the Mt. Fuji Marathon was held in the morning, the conditions were far less cold than his late afternoon jaunts during practice sessions days before.

The Coco Restaurant employee said the heat actually may have been too much for some participants as he saw dozens of them doubled up and taking a breather on the sides of trail. Reports even say that a 51-year-old succumbed to heat exhaustion and died during the race.

Villafria took time to thank God foremost for giving him the opportunity to join and complete the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon.

He also extended his gratitude to the Legal Department of Tan Holdings Corp., namely Steve Pixley, Ariel Mariano, Ron Biggers, Susan Espanilo, and Maricar Guinto as well as the company's senior vice president Eli Arago.

Villafria said Pixley even wired him some money after he encountered credit card problems in the hotel he was staying in. He said the money also came in handy for replacing shoes he wore out during his practice runs. In all, Villafria bought three pairs in Japan and saved the $80 one he bought on Saipan.

He also extended his gratitude to all the sponsors of his "Run for Ron" event a couple of months ago that raised funds for his Japan trip. He also tipped his hat to Luen Fung Enterprises Saipan for shouldering the cost of his roundtrip ticket to Japan. Last but not the least, he also thanked Coco Restaurant, its owner Kyung Rae Seo, and his co-workers for all the support they've given him the past several years.

Villafria is one of the islands' most accomplished runners. Most recently, he helped an all-Filipino team composed of biker Rene Calage and swimmer Rezne Wong to sweep their own Pacific Islands Club Double this year as their relay team topped the 6th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 19th Tagaman Triathlon.

He also placed third in this year's 10K Fun Run in the 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon and 26th Half Marathon last January.

In December last year, Villafria single-handedly took on the almost 20-kilometer Christmas Island Relay run from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi, finishing second to Team We Are Legend.

GERMANY

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there when Leon Guerrero singled and drove in Jesus Iguel, but that was all she wrote for the game and the World Series for the boys in blue as Nicolas San Nicolas grounded out to second to end the game.

Germany vented its frustration in the CNMI after the EMEA champions lost to International Pool heavyweights Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic its previous two outings.

After a scoreless first, Germany exploded for seven runs in the second inning, highlighted by Sascha Brockemeyer's and Johannes Jung's two RBIs.

The Europeans would tuck in three more runs in the third inning to make the score 10-0, as Julius Ueescher scored on a wild pitch and Markus Stryczele doubled down the right field line that brought in two more runners.

After Leon Guerrero homered off Dominik Dunford, Germany retaliated by scoring two more runs in the bottom of the fourth when Christian Schuler singled off Elton Santos and scored Jung and Lennart Weller.

The CNMI started the fifth on a right foot when Nunu Kapileo reached first base on an error but it was negated moments later when Giovanni Ayuyu, pinch running for Kapileo, was picked off trying to steal second.

Dunford would later walk Iguel, but came back by striking out Lawrence Dikito for the second out. Leon Guerrero then made the aforementioned RBI single, but the CNMI failed to get more from its hitters when San Nicolas grounded out to Jung.

Germany was led by Stryczele who went 2-for-2 and drove in two runs, while Weller, Jung, and Schuler each had two hits.

Dunford and starter Robin Drache combined on a four-hitter for Germany, which improved its win-loss record to 1-2.

Starter Vicente Camacho and Santos combined to give up 12 runs on 10 hits for the CNMI. They also walked nine batters and were assessed 12 errors while striking out three.

Other results yesterday had Louisiana beat New Jersey, 8-4, and California nip SC District 1, 3-2.

FIGHT

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up the competition with the slimmed-down Slade "The Rage" Adelbai of Trench Tech taking on Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo of Marianas Elite in one of them.

Mainland-based MMA fighter Johnny Mercurio, fighting out of UTC, Huntington Beach, will take on D.A.T. Gym's Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe in another 185-lb. contest.

The other middleweight fights will have Predator Combat Team's Bryson Sablan squaring off against team Xtreme's "Kill" Bill Saures, Predator Combat Team's John "The Jackhammer" Borja taking on Trench Tech's Darrel "The Derailer" Salas, and Choke Chain's Lionel "Da Hellion" Borja going up against Trench Tech's "Big" Ron Chisato.

Predator or Prey will also feature fights in the welterweight (170 lbs.), lightweight (155 lbs.), featherweight (145 lbs), and bantamweight (135 lbs.) classes.

Trench Tech founder Cuki "The Flying Cockroach" Alvarez will battle Pete "The Dragon" Guerrero of Dragon Tribe in the welterweight division, while the lightweight match will pit Nate "The Terrible" Flores of Predator Combat Team against Fasi "Quick Draw" Jess of Trench Tech.

The featherweight bout will have Giovanni "Palaksi" Sablan of Trench Tech challenging Jerome Norita of Marianas Elite, while the bantamweight fight will see independent fighter "Tabi" Jay Muna test Team Zalaka's Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan.

Aside from the 10 MMA fights, Predator or Prey will also have a ladies boxing match pitting Soledad Tenorio against Tara Namauleg.

Predator or Prey is the first foray into the local MMA scene by Gorilla Warfare Productions, which especially flew in UFC veteran Kimo Leopoldo to help promote the event.

Leopoldo incidentally visited PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza yesterday and signed autographs for fans.

Predator or Prey is sponsored by Bud Light, PTI, Power 99, Hertz, Younis Art Studio, Boarderline, Aquarius Beach Tower, Saipan World Resort, OTM, Da Hui, JET Holdings, House of Stickers, Pimpit, Platinum Fighting Productions, and CNMISpace.com.

FISHERMEN

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In a statement released Thursday, MVA said the two-day event, which draws fishermen from throughout the Commonwealth and abroad, will include a cash prize of $10,000 for the first angler to catch a marlin weighing more than 624.34 lbs.

The tournament, beginning Aug. 9 and ending Aug. 10 , is one of three major fishing events the SFA hosts each year. It will include competitions for catching bill fish, yellow fin, wahoo, mahi mahi and skipjack.

Prior to the competition, according to the statement, the Department of Public Safety will conduct inspections of boats taking part in it. Further details on the event are available at the MVA's offices and the Fishing Tackle shop.

A fact sheet released on the tournament says pre-registration for it will begin Aug. 8 from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm at the Smiling Cove Marina, where officials will brief contestants on the rules.

The tournament begins at 6am and runs until 6pm. It continues on Aug. 10, following the same schedule. A banquet with awards will take place at 6pm on Aug. 11 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

For additional information, contact Ed Diaz or Tudela at 664-3200/1. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

Pool tournaments set at USS Peleliu

USS Peleliu Club is hoping to revive the sport when it hosts a slew of pool competitions beginning this week.

The Garapan watering hole and sports bar will be organizing three different tournaments every week.

Monday is for the 8-ball "Pool Challenge," with a $1 per game charge for challengers where winners pocket the money and hold the table. It can be played with as few as five entrants.

Tuesday's competition, meanwhile, features a single-elimination 9-ball tournament with a $5 entry fee. The first competitor to win three games advances in the bracket.

"A" players, as determined by management, will have to win four games to advance.

Last but not the least, Wednesday is reserved for the always in-demand double elimination 8-ball tournament.

Players have at least two chances to advance for only $5.

The start time for all three weekly pool tournaments is at 8pm with happy hour prices for both players and spectators until 2pm.

For more information about USSP's Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday pool tournaments, contact Ken or Rose Phillips at 233-1984. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	63	44	.589	_
Boston	61	48	.560	3
New York	59	48	.551	4
Toronto	54	54	.500	9 1/2
Baltimore	51	56	.477	12

Central Division

Chicago	60	46	.566	_
Minnesota	59	48	.551	1 1/2
Detroit	55	52	.514	5 1/2
Kansas City	50	59	.459	11 1/2
Cleveland	46	60	.434	14

West Division

Los Angeles	67	40	.626	_
Texas	56	52	.519	11 1/2
Oakland	53	54	.495	14
Seattle	40	67	.374	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	58	49	.542	_
New York	58	50	.537	1/2
Florida	57	51	.528	1 1/2
Atlanta	49	58	.458	9
Washington	38	69	.355	20

Central Division

Chicago	64	44	.593	_
Milwaukee	60	48	.556	4
St. Louis	61	49	.555	4
Cincinnati	51	58	.468	13 1/2
Houston	50	57	.467	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	50	58	.463	14

West Division

Arizona	55	52	.514	_
Los Angeles	54	53	.505	1
Colorado	49	60	.450	7
San Francisco	44	63	.411	11
San Diego	42	67	.385	14

Yesterday's Games

Colorado 7, Pittsburgh 4
Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 5
St. Louis 7, Atlanta 2
Philadelphia 8, Washington 5
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 2
Cincinnati 9, Houston 5
Arizona 7, San Diego 3
L.A. Dodgers 4, San Francisco 0
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2
N.Y. Yankees 13, Baltimore 3
Kansas City 4, Oakland 3, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 9, Boston 2
Detroit 14, Cleveland 12, 13 innings
Texas 4, Seattle 3
Chicago White Sox 8, Minnesota 3

By The Associated Press

2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon

Ronald Villafria successfully completed the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25, finishing the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388-foot mountain in four hours and 20 minutes.

Jagged rocks and the heat were just some of the challenges that participants had to contend with in the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon, known locally as the Fuji Tozan Race, was made more difficult by the single-file trail up to the summit.

Ronald Villafria waves the Philippine flag after completing the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon in four hours and 20 minutes.

Ronald Villafria felt the cold of Mt. Fujiyama's weather during his practice runs.

Out of the 3,000 entrants, only about 1,200 completed the race, which had a cut-off time of four hours and 30 minutes.

The trophies of the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon are on display prior to the awards ceremony.

The exceptionally symmetrical cone of Mt. Fuji is a well-known symbol of Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Ronald Villafria poses right before beginning his trek up Mt. Fuji.

Ronald Villafria wore out three pairs of shoes during his practice runs and the actual race of the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon.

Packers president meets with Favre and his agent

Green Bay Packers president Mark Murphy traveled to Mississippi to meet with quarterback Brett Favre and his agent James "Bus" Cook on Wednesday, in an apparent attempt to talk Favre out of reporting to camp later this week. 40

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Angels keep rolling with 9-2 win vs. Red Sox

Garret Anderson went 4-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs, Joe Saunders earned his 14th win and the Los Angeles Angels swept the Boston Red Sox 9-2 in the American League on Wednesday. 39

Ron returns from Mt. Fuji conquest

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Veteran runner Ronald Villafria successfully completed the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25, finishing the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388-foot mountain in four hours and 20 minutes.

Villafria, who returned to Saipan last Monday, said the most challenging part of the marathon was making the cutoff time in the first and second stages since newcomers like him have to start way behind repeaters of the Mt. Fuji Marathon, known locally as the Fuji Tozan Race.

And since majority of the marathon was an uphill single-file Grotto-like ascent to the summit, participants have to wait for those in front of them to climb first before taking their turn.

That was why Villafria—who recorded a time of less than three hours in one of his practice runs—finished 800 out of 1,200 finishers, barely making the 4:30 cutoff time for the entire race.

He said he was full of doubt whether he could make the 2:20 cutoff time for the 15-km first stage of the race, but checked in at 2:09 to make it to the final 21-km trek up to the summit, which he accomplished in 2:11.

In all, only 60 percent of the 3,000 entrants successfully scaled Mt. Fuji during the event.

Unlike the first time he tried to summit Mt. Fujiyama during his practice sessions though, the

See RON on Page 42

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ronald Villafria poses at the top of the 12,388-foot Mt. Fujiyama after successfully completing the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25.

MARK RABAGO
Mainland-based MMA fighter Johnny Mercurio, center, will take on Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe in one of five middleweight fights in tomorrow's Predator or Prey event.

Fight card out for Predator or Prey

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The fight card for tomorrow evening's Predator or Prey is finally out and local mixed martial arts fans have 10 slam-bang bouts to look forward to.

The highlight of the event would be the exciting heavyweight (265 lbs. maximum) fight between Predator Combat Team's Charlz "The Predator" Aiken and Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial.

Five middleweight bouts will also spice

See FIGHT on Page 42

Fishermen gear up for tournament

Local fishing enthusiasts are gearing up for the 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament next month with organizers expecting more than 50 boats to take part and 150 contestants with lines in the water.

"The amazing thing about this is the number of people that come out for it," said Frank Tudela of the Marianas Visitors Authority, one of the organizers of the event. "It's a lot of fun."

See FISHERMEN on Page 42

Germany beats CNMI, 12-2

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI wrapped up its 2008 Big League World Series stint with a 12-2 loss against Germany yesterday at the J.B. "Red" Owens Complex in Easley, South Carolina.

It was the fourth setback in as many games for the Asia-Pacific champions, which lost all its matches via the 10-run mercy rule.

One bright spot in the CNMI's forgettable showing in the 2008 Big League World Series, however, was Ben Leon Guerrero's solo homerun in the fourth against Germany, which trimmed the Europe, Middle East, and Africa champion's lead to 12-1.

Like in its previous game against Canada, the local Big Leaguers needed an offensive spark in the top of the fifth to avoid yet another shortened game.

The CNMI was halfway

See GERMANY on Page 42

CNMI suffered its fourth straight 10-run mercy rule loss in the 2008 Big League World Series after losing to Germany, 12-2, yesterday at the J.B. "Red" Owens Complex in Easley, South Carolina.
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will be held in the waters of the Marianas on Aug. 9 and 10.